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# Laird Probed For Advisory Board Post

By RICHARD BRADEE  
Sentinel Washington Bureau

Washington, D.C. — Melvin Laird is the subject of a new FBI investigation because he has agreed to serve as a member of the president's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, Laird's office and the White House reported Tuesday.

A White House spokesman denied published reports that President Ford plans to name Laird to replace Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

The spokesman quoted Ford as saying that he has told Kissinger that he can stay on as secretary of state as long as he wants.

Laird was on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

His secretary told reporters, "They are doing an update on him because he has agreed to serve on a nonpaying advisory board."

The White House identified

the job that Laird agreed to take as the intelligence board, a group of prominent citizens outside the government responsible for advising the president about the foreign policy implications of activities of the CIA and other intelligence agencies.

In the past the board has been relatively inactive. Occasionally, however, board members have been given access to highly classified information about proposed CIA ventures.

Laird and Kissinger often were at odds while Laird was

defense secretary and Kissinger was former President Nixon's national security advisor.

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in Ford's campaign for re-

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Reagan and Sen. Henry Jack-

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with the Soviet Union.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1

Milwaukee Sentinel  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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Edition: Final  
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Editor: Robert H. Wills  
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Character: MELVIN LAIRD  
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Continued From Page 1

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*Wash Rn*

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A-1

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 3/3/76

Edition: FINAL

Author:

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# Laird Political Career Began in Wisconsin State Senate

## Local Resident Quick to Climb

Melvin Robert Laird, Marshfield's most famous citizen, is not, as most of his newspaper biographers have assumed, a native of this city, where his parents and grandparents had lived before his birth.

The congressman who will take over the Pentagon in January was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on Sept. 1, 1922, while his father, the Rev. Melvin R. Laird, was pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church there.

The Rev. Mr. Laird had come here in 1911, and in 1913 married Helen Connor, a daughter of William D. Connor, pioneer area lumberman and former lieutenant governor of Wisconsin. The couple moved to Lincoln, Ill., soon after their marriage, and later to Omaha, returning to Marshfield in 1925.

The junior Laird attended public school and junior high school here, graduating from Marshfield Senior High School in 1940. He then entered Carleton College at Northfield, Minn., where he majored in political science and economics and received his A. B. degree with his class in 1944, although he was already in service then.

In 1942 he entered the U. S. Navy under the V-12 college training program, from which he graduated at St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn., in 1943. He then enrolled in the midshipman's school at the Naval Supply and Disbursement

School, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass., where he received his ensign's commission in April, 1944.

Laird served for 17 months aboard the destroyer Maddox, which was employed in Pacific duty with Task Forces 58 and 38 under Admiral William Halsey. He was wounded during a kamikazi (suicide) attack on the Maddox in January, 1945.

He was on active duty in the Navy for more than three years, and a month before his discharge, he announced his candidacy for the 24th district state senatorship left vacant by the death of his father on March 13, 1946. He had been married to a former Carleton classmate, Barbara Masters of Indianapolis, on Oct. 15, 1945, while on leave.

Laird easily won the Republican nomination from Clark County Assemblyman Walter E. Cook in August of 1946 and went on to take the state senate office without Democratic opposition. He was reelected to the full four-year term two years later.

\* \* \*

He served on the Senate labor and management committee, the veterans' affairs committee, the joint committee to reorganize the department of taxation, the state educational commission, and as secretary of the Senate Republican caucus, during his first term.

Elected with Gov. Walter Goodland, he directed legislative floor activity for Gov. Oscar Rennebohm and for Gov. Walter J. Kohler Jr., and served on the Joint Finance Committee and Joint Legislative Council.

In 1952, when Rep. Reid Murray of the Seventh Congressional District considered retirement, Laird

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10  
NEWS-HERALD  
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made plans to run for the district seat in Congress, and two weeks after Murray's death on April 29 of that year, he announced his candidacy.

\* \* \*

Again he won the Republican nomination by an overwhelming margin, this time defeating Malcolm Rosholt of Portage County, and went on to win the general election in November with the largest vote total in district history — more than 95,000 to less than 36,000 for his Democratic opponent, Ernest Kluck.

At 30 one of the youngest of congressmen, he rose rapidly in the councils of his party, being placed on the powerful and important House Appropriations Committee early in his congressional career.

He was elected to a ninth term in the House last month and was expected to play a major part in legislative leadership in the new administration.

\* \* \*

As chairman of the House Republican Conference and member of the Republican Coordinating Committee, he has been one of his party's chief strategists.

One testimonial to his capability was voiced by President Eisenhower several years ago when he named Laird as one of the 10 men in America best qualified to serve as President of the United States.

## Leadership Role Never Disputed

A veteran of eight terms in the U. S. House of Representatives, serving the 15 counties of the Seventh Wisconsin District, Melvin Laird has long been widely recognized as an outstanding young national leader.

He is currently chairman of the House Republican Conference, one of the top leadership positions in the GOP. His credentials in the field of party policymaking are undisputed and perhaps unequalled in either party.

He has served on his party platform committees, both at the state and national levels, longer than any other living Republican. He first chaired a national convention platform subcommittee in 1952, was named vice chairman of the full committee in 1960 and chairman in 1964.

\* \* \*

Since 1964 he has played a key role on the Republican Coordinating Committee, which is the party's highest policymaking body. Laird is recognized as the original proponent of this committee immediately following the 1964 election. He advocated its creation as a suitable vehicle for binding up the party's wounds and reestablishing party unity.

An author and editor in addition to his many other activities, Laird's third and most ambitious book is *Republican Papers*. It is a compilation of 29 papers by distinguished academics and Members of Congress on the major domestic problems of contemporary America.

He was also editor in 1964 of *The Conservative Papers*, a similar volume dealing both with domestic and foreign problems. He was author, in 1962, of *A House Divided: America's Strategy Gap*, a book

dealing with the foreign and military problems of the United States.

\* \* \*

Laird's interest in domestic problems has been heightened by his close involvement with the domestic crises of America due to his position as ranking minority member of the House Appropriations subcommittee on labor, health, education and welfare.

This committee determines the financing of such major programs as the anti-poverty program, the elementary and secondary education program and aid to the states for public assistance. Since his appointment to that important subcommittee, Laird has become identified as a major contributor to the nation's health and welfare. He has supported such agencies and activities as the National Institutes of Health and fostered private as well as public efforts in medical research.

\* \* \*

As a high ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee, Laird has time and again demonstrated his insight into military strategy. There are scores of examples of his leadership in national security matters. It was his amendment several years ago that increased the funding for the Polaris submarine program over and above the recommendations of the Department of Defense and made it possible for the nation to have a larger number of Polaris missile submarines on station at an earlier date than would otherwise have been the case.

His two subcommittees, Defense and Labor, Health, Education and Welfare account for budget appropriations totalling more than two-thirds of the entire United States budget each year. When first appointed to the Appropriations Committee in 1953, the then 30-year-old

Laird was the youngest congressman in U. S. history to be selected for that important committee assignment. By the beginning of the 90th Congress (1967), at the age of 44, Laird had become the only member of the HEW Subcommittee who had served on that committee since the department had been created.

Laird is the recipient of numerous awards, citations and honorary degrees. Among them is the coveted 15th Annual Albert Lasker Medical Research Award. This award constitutes the highest recognition for

promotion of medical research. The honorarium received by Laird for doing more to promote our nation's health than any other public official was donated by the Congressman to medical research activities in Wisconsin.

\* \* \*

Another coveted award which Laird received in the 90th Congress was the Distinguished Service Award of the American Political Science Association — an organization that boasts more than 13,000 academic members from colleges and universities across the country. In making the award, the Association cited

Laird as "a forthright and persistent advocate whose intellectual courage and ability have consistently enlightened and enlivened public discussion of the important issues facing the nation."

Laird has not only distinguished himself as a national figure but has also amassed an impressive record in his home state of Wisconsin. He has been a firm believer in the "grass roots" approach, traveling whenever possible back to his Seventh District to discuss the various issues of the day with his constituents.





**FAMILY TOGETHER**— legislator as busy as Melvin Laird has been during his congressional career finds it impossible to be with his family as much as he would like. This informal shot was taken on a recent occasion when Rep. Laird and his wife, Barbara, and their three children could all be together at their Washington residence. The congressman stands behind, left to right, David, Mrs. Laird, John and Alison.



**IN CAPITOL'S SHADOW** — A congressman probably poses for pictures against the background of the nation's Capitol more often than he cares to; but this was one time when

Rep. Melvin R. Laird struck the familiar pose with genuine pleasure. With him here is his wife, the former Barbara Masters.



**YOUNGER IMAGES**—These are pictures of Melvin R. Laird in much earlier days than now, when he has reached the "ripe" age of 46. At left is Ensign Laird as he appeared while serving in the Pacific in 1943-44. The photo was used to announce his candidacy for the State Senate in 1946. At right is the picture used when he announced his candidacy for Congress in 1952.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Laird's Father Was Senator, Clergyman and Businessman

The father of the nation's incoming secretary of defense was Marshfield's first state senator, a position his famed son was destined to achieve before becoming Marshfield's first representative in Congress.

Melvin R. Laird Sr., lumberman and former pastor, served in the Wisconsin upper house as the senator from the 24th District, which then included Wood, Clark and Taylor Counties, from 1941 until his death March 18, 1946.

Prior to serving in the Wisconsin Legislature, the senior Laird served as chairman of the Wood County Board of

For a time the senator and pastor-to-be taught rural school in Pike County, Ill., and was principal of Barry High School.

He received his M.A. Degree at Princeton University Divinity School and was a graduate student at the Universities of Wisconsin and Chicago. His Doctor of Divinity degree was conferred by James Millikan University in Dacatur, Ill.

Laird entered upon his ministerial career at the Presbyterian Church in Prairie du Sac in 1907. In 1911 he came to Marshfield as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, but left the city two years later to accept a pastorate at Lincoln, Ill. Later he became president of Lincoln College, a Presbyterian institution.

\* \* \*

Although he had a growing family when this nation became embroiled in World War I in 1917, the young pastor and college president volunteered for service with the 335th Regiment and spent a year in France as its chaplain, serving in the Argonne and on other historic battlefields.

His young wife, the former Helen Connor, whom he married on April 16, 1913, made her home in Marshfield during her chaplain-husband's tour of duty in France and was one of the speakers at ceremonies here marking the Armistice Nov. 11, 1918.

After the war Laird became pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Omaha, Neb., where the new secretary



Melvin R. Laird Sr.

Supervisors, having represented Marshfield's Seventh Ward for 12 years.

He was born on a farm at Griggsville, Ill., in 1888, attending rural schools and graduating from Griggsville High School. He received his B.A. degree from Illinois College at Jacksonville.

\* \* \*

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

10  
NEWS-HERALD  
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of defense was born in the Presbyterian Manse on Sept. 1, 1922, the third of four sons.

In 1925 the Rev. Mr. Laird gave up his ministerial post in Omaha to return with his family to Marshfield and enter the lumber business with his father-in-law, W. D. Connor, a former lieutenant governor of Wisconsin.

He found time, however, to continue to serve as a clergyman, frequently assuming duties of supply pastor here and in Stevens Point, Arpin, and other communities.

\* \* \*

An active campaigner for his father when he sought the state senate office vacated by Sen. Walter J. Rush of Neillsville, who was not a candidate for reelection in 1940, was his son, Melvin Jr., just turned 18 at the time.

The senior Laird was the sixth Wood County resident to serve in the State Senate. His predecessors, all from Wisconsin Rapids (or the earlier Grand Rapids), were Charles M. Webb, Thomas B. Scott, Herman C. Wipperfurth, Theodore W. Brézard and Isaac Witter.

John W. Wyngaard, veteran statehouse correspondent whose column appears daily in the News-Herald, had this observation to make about the senator from Marshfield in June, 1943:

"One of the members of the upper house . . . who has made a

strong impression by reason of his earnestness, capacity for work and study, and temperament, and a man who has won the universal respect of his colleagues is Melvin Laird of Marshfield.

"Never a narrow partisan, and yet a man who has effectively represented the Republican point of view in legislative activities this year, Laird has a rich background of professional work, a broad and thoughtful interest in public affairs, a quiet dignity and an effective speaking style which ought to put him in the forefront of any list of potential candidates for the governorship.

\* \* \*

"There is now no hint that such a notion ever entered his head, but if the Republican organization is seriously engaged in examining the field of possibilities, he cannot escape serious and favorable notice."

Laird had the distinction of being the only clergyman in the State Senate, where he became chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Labor, a member of the Committee on Legislative procedures, and chairman and member of important interim committees.

The 58-year-old senator had been a patient at Rochester, Minn., for two weeks before his death. He had undergone surgery eight days before death claimed one of Marshfield's most distinguished citizens.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Rapids Man Eligible for Laird's Post

WISCONSIN RAPIDS (AP) — Former State Sen. John Potter of Wisconsin Rapids emerged today as a possible candidate for Congress should Rep. Melvin Laird resign to become secretary of defense.

Potter, who served in the Senate from 1960-64, said he had reached no decision on whether he would seek the congressional seat held by his Republican colleague.

Several newspapers reported that Laird was expected to be tapped by President-elect Richard M. Nixon for the defense the report, Potter said, "catches me by surprise. This has come so fast. I think it's improper for me to even talk about it until a decision is made."

Potter, 44-year-old attorney, described himself as a "Laird Republican." Laird's 7th District is composed of 15 central and northern counties.

Under state law, Gov. Warren P. Knowles could call a special election should Laird resign.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1  
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# Laird Reluctant to Leave House Job

By ROWLAND EVANS  
and ROBERT NOVAK

WASHINGTON — Rep. Melvin R. Laird of Wisconsin will be secretary of defense in the Nixon cabinet—a wholly unexpected appointment of the most far-ranging importance.

Laird, who agreed Friday night to sacrifice his powerful position in Congress for the Pentagon post, will thus become a prime arbiter of the new administration's foreign military policy, and perhaps eventually strong man of the Nixon cabinet on a wide variety of issues. In particular, he will be a strong force for a quickly negotiated settlement of the Vietnam War.

Although he was an increasingly influential adviser to President-elect Nixon during the past campaign, Laird was not seriously considered for a cabinet post — at his own choosing. As the most powerful Republican in the House, he was reluctant to give up 16 years of seniority built up by the relatively early age of 46. Besides, Nixon wanted a Democrat in the Pentagon and appeared to have an impressive one in Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington (who had Laird's strong endorsement).

But much to the surprise of Nixon insiders, Jackson last week rejected the offer — thereby heeding the pleas of several Democratic senators who warned him Nixon would use him as the scapegoat for reduced domestic spending due to higher defense spending. Whether Jackson agreed with that view or not, he did feel — and so informed Nixon aides —

that liberal Democrats in the Senate would make his life miserable as secretary of defense.

With Jackson out, with Gov. John Connally of Texas (another Democratic possibility) almost surely unavailable and with time running out, Nixon last week turned to Laird. After much discussion, Laird's agreement came Friday night and his appointment is to be announced by Nixon Wednesday in New York.

In leaving Congress, Laird sacrifices the near — certainty that he would soon be promoted from Republican caucus chairman to floor leader and the chance of one day being Speaker of the House.

But Laird is exchanging a Capitol Hill barony for a central place on a less parochial stage. Filling a post once held by such giants as James Forrestal, George Marshall, and Robert Lovett, he becomes a national and international figure.

Moreover, considering Laird's wide-ranging interests and energy, it is inconceivable he will not exert influence on non-defense and non-foreign policy matters such as social welfare schemes, the rebuilding of the cities, federal-state relations, fiscal policy, and Republican party politics.

Superficially, Republican Laird seems similar to Democrat Jackson: a hard-line anti-Communist in foreign policy. Highly regarded by the uniformed military and a sharp critic of Robert S. McNamara during his days as secretary of defense. Beneath the surface, however, Laird is considerably more subtle in his outlook.

In private conversation, for example, Laird tells friends he is neither a hawk nor a dove on Vietnam, adding: "I am a

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essimist." As such, he has long been anxious for quick negotiations and has acknowledged the probability of a coalition government in Saigon.

\* \* \*

Similarly, Laird is not about to give the military a blank check for hardware spending and, indeed, is more cautious in that regard than the President-elect. In particular, he will move quite slowly in committing funds for the super-expensive anti-ballistic missile system (ABM).

McNamara privately considered Laird his toughest critic on Capitol Hill and his most difficult interrogator in congressional hearings. For his part, Laird privately regarded McNamara as a brilliant secretary of defense in his first three years when he achieved

civilian supremacy over the military.

But Laird felt McNamara blundered in insisting on a common Air Force-Navy plane in the TFX case, in spending money for deploying an ABM thir system instead of less expensive research for a full system and, most important, in his prosecution of the Vietnam War.

As the 10th secretary of defense and the first to come from Congress, Laird carries no administrative experience into one of the world's toughest administrative positions but Gov. Nelson Rockefeller (who wanted the post himself) advised Nixon in Palm Springs, Calif., last week, that a McNamara-type administrator would be a mistake in the Pentagon today and what was needed now was a student and practitioner of geopolitics. In Mel Laird, Nixon has exactly what Rockefeller recommended.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Secretary Melvin Laird

The editorial below was prepared Sunday night before the unofficial stories of Rep. Melvin Laird's selection as secretary of defense had been circulated in this area, although there was reason to believe that the announcement would break prematurely. Speculation regarding other cabinet appointments will continue until President-elect Nixon makes formal announcement of his choices. Despite Nixon's silence up to this writing, it is now certain that the appointment as defense secretary has been offered to the Marshfield congressman and, with some reluctance on his part, accepted.

Despite the carefully attuned ears of the Washington press corps, the news reports on President-elect Nixon's cabinet selections are still couched in speculative terms. Indications are that the secrecy will soon be dissipated by the next chief executive himself.

Currently, correspondents are sure that California Lt. Gov. Robert Finch, who has already been addressed by Nixon in public as "secretary," will head the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Gov. John A. Volpe of Massachusetts has been tagged by speculation as the next secretary of transportation. Daniel P. Moynihan, a Democrat, is suggested as secretary of labor.

There is talk of Chicago banker David Kennedy as secretary of the treasury, and of Nixon's law partner, John N. Mitchell, as well as of former Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell, for

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4  
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attorney general. Gov. George Romney of Michigan has been mentioned as possible secretary of commerce.

Most of these men could serve in the cabinet only at some personal sacrifice. In most cases, only men who would have to abandon highly responsible positions to assist Richard Nixon would be attractive to him. He needs competent men, not political ladder climbers.

Of the dozen cabinet jobs to be filled, those in State and Defense are most critically vital. The new President cannot afford to pick errand boys who will do his bidding in those posts, but strong men upon whom he himself can lean with confidence.

State is a big mystery. With Rockefeller and Dewey eliminated, talk persists regarding Douglas Dillon, who served in the treasury under Kennedy and Johnson and is therefore suspect in some GOP circles. Or is William Scranton's assignment to the Middle East a preliminary to his appointment as successor to Dean Rusk?

Who will be the third member of the mighty triumvirate Richard Nixon will head? Democrat Sen. Henry Jackson of Washington was prominently mentioned in the speculation last week, but the word from Palm Springs Saturday was "no." Can Nixon, expected to clean house in Washington, afford to keep Lyndon Johnson's man, Clark Clifford, as master of the Pentagon? And how does Marshfield's own capable Melvin Laird fit into this great jigsaw puzzle? Perhaps we shall know the answers in a day or two.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Laird Called Nixon Choice for Defense

## Marshfield Man Not Available For Comment

Rep. Melvin R. Laird of Marshfield is President-elect Richard Nixon's choice for secretary of defense, the nation was told today.

The Associated Press said the report was published in several newspapers. The Milwaukee Sentinel said it was told by an unidentified Nixon aide in Washington that Laird had agreed to accept the post and that a formal announcement was planned this week.

Similar reports were made by newspapers in Chicago and New York.

The Marshfield congressman could not be reached for comment. He was in Marshfield last week and was known by friends to have been called to Palm Springs, Calif., where President-elect Nixon was attending the Republican Governors' Conference.

Laird left here Friday morning after having attended a Marshfield Senior High School

play, "The Sebastians," with his mother, Mrs. M. R. Laird Sr., Thursday night.

It was also known here that Laird was extremely reluctant to leave his Seventh District seat on Congress, where he was considered by many observers and commentators to be the most powerful Republican in the House of Representatives, and was expected to become an administration leader in legislative activity.

It had been rumored that he had already declined one cabinet appointment. Presumably one of the arguments pressed by President-elect Nixon in persuading him to accept the defense appointment was his background on the House Appropriations Committee and its defense subcommittee.

The Associated Press, in its succeeded by her son, the late Richard Laird, in August, 1952, report today, said:

\* \* \*

Laird, 46, a congressman from Marshfield in central Wisconsin since 1952, is chairman of the House Republican Conference and the ranking Republican on the House Appropriations Committee's welfare subcommittee.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., declined Sunday night in Seattle to comment on reports he had rejected an offer of the defense job.

Jackson said he is to confer with Nixon Friday in New York, but that he is not anticipating talk about an appointment.

The name of Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., has also been

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1  
NEWS-HERALD  
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

Date: 12/9/68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: EDWARD W. HELLEF

Title: MELVIN R. LAIRD

Character:

or

Classification: 161-459-1

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

☐ Being Investigated

ARCHED.....INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....  
JAN 9 1969  
FBI - MILWAUKEE

MT ONLY

discussed concerning the secretarial position. Appointment of Ford would leave the road open for Laird's possible advancement to House GOP leader.

Laird was a critic of an offer by President Johnson in October, 1966, to return U.S. troops from Vietnam if North Vietnamese forces were similarly withdrawn.

He helped urge GOP policy makers to pull away from the administration's Vietnam policy.

During the 1968 presidential campaign, Laird was often at Nixon's side. He was asked then if he would accept a cabinet post, and replied he was still

thinking of staying in the House.

Laird was an official of a lumber company when first elected to Congress. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1948, and was chairman of the 1964 convention's platform committee.

\* \* \*

Four generations of his family have served in Wisconsin public office. He was elected to the state Senate in 1946, where his father had served.

Laird, a graduate of Carleton College in Minnesota, is the author of "A House Divided: America's Strategy Gap," and editor of "The Conservative Papers."



Rep. Melvin R. Laird



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## CAMPAIGNER

# Politics Appealed to Laird in High School

Melvin R. Laird, at 46, has been a practicing politician for nearly all of his adult life, excepting three years he spent in the U. S. Navy. But perhaps only his close friends remember that he was an active campaigner even before he was old enough to vote or run for office.

Back in September of 1940 a small item appeared on the second page of a Marshfield News-Herald edition under the heading: Campaigner; Too Young to Vote But Young Laird Knows His Politics. It may have been the first time "Boim" Laird has his picture in the newspaper. The story read:

"Among the most active campaigners in Central Wisconsin during the primary election campaign now drawing to a close is a young Marshfield man who is still three years short of voting age.

"But although Melvin Laird Jr. has no vote of his own, he has done more than any voter in the 24th senatorial district, including Wood, Clark, and Taylor Counties, to push the candidacy of his father, Wood County Board chairman who aspires to the office of senator.

"Making use of the experience gained as a member of the debate team of Marshfield High School and as editor-in-chief of its yearbook, "The Tiger," young Laird, who was 18 early this month, set out to take an active part in his father's campaign.

"One of his earlier activities was the preparation of the Republican booth at the Central Wisconsin State Fair during the first week in September. From this he went on to the role of campaign orator, substituting at Republican rallies which his father was unable to attend.

"Rigging up his car with voice amplifying equipment, he

stumped the three counties, made speeches, and conducted house-to-house canvasses in several cities and towns. Laird for Senator may be the proper slogan, but it was Laird and Laird during the campaign.

Of course the senior Laird won, and was reelected four years later while Melvin Jr. was serving in the Navy.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11  
NEWS-HERALD  
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

Date: 12/9/68

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FBI - MILWAUKEE

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Two of Laird's Brothers Killed

Tragedy is no stranger to Rep. Melvin R. Laird, the nation's new defense chief.

Two of his three brothers were killed, one in the Pacific during World War II and one in a highway accident at Madison.

Surviving is his youngest brother, Dr. David Laird, professor of English at Los Angeles State College.

His eldest brother, Ensign Connor Laird, was 29 when his Navy minesweeper capsized in heavy seas off Coos Bay, near what was then Marshfield, Ore., on Feb. 20, 1943. He was listed as missing in the original report of the disaster which claimed five dead and 13 listed as missing.

Brother Richard M. Laird was a Madison lumber dealer at the time of his death, Nov. 8, 1967, at the age of 52. He died in the flaming wreckage of his truck at an underpass, when the boom of a log-skidding machine being carried on the truck hit the top of the underpass.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11

NEWS-HERALD  
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

Date: 12/9/68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: EDWARD W. HELLEB

Title: MELVIN R. LAIRD

Character:

or

Classification: 161-459,

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

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JAN 9 1969  
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Laird Missed Boat on One Major Event

No one knows better than a congressman's wife that politics frequently gets in the way of family affairs. But Barbara Laird, like many another politician's spouse, has learned to accept the way of life that goes with being married to a public figure.

One incident she will not forget occurred on a summer day in 1954 and was described as follows in the Marshfield News-Herald of July 17:

"Congressmen are supposed to know what's going on in their districts and Rep. M. R. Laird usually does, but sometimes things happen a little before they are expected to.

"That was the case yesterday when a new constituent arrived in the Marshfield congressman's district. Laird had planned to be on hand when the newcomer arrived, but they hadn't gotten together on the exact time of arrival.

"So Rep. Laird hastened to board a plane at Washington yesterday, but although he took 'the high road' instead of the 'low road,' David Malcolm Laird was in Marshfield before him.

"Congressman Laird arrived in the city last night and has been spending the day with Mrs. Laird, inspecting the new Laird with proper paternal pride, and reacquainting with John and Alison, the other two members of the Laird family."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11  
NEWS-HERALD  
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

Date: 12/9/68

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JAN 9 1969  
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Mrs. Helen Laird Is Public Spirited

Personal participation in public service is no stranger to Mrs. Helen C. Laird, who resides at 208 S. Cherry Ave. here.

For this member of a widely known lumbering and manufacturing family, active leadership in the government of the state and nation has been a way of life.

Her grandfather was a health officer and Wood County board member, her father was a lieutenant governor of Wisconsin; her husband was a state senator, and her son, longtime Member in Congress.



Mrs. Helen C. Laird

from the 7th Congressional District, is now slated to assume the office of secretary of defense.

Mrs. Laird was one of the comparatively few women to serve on the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents.

She succeeded Walter J. Hodgkins of Ashland on the board in 1951, serving until May 1, 1959.

The appointment by Gov. Walter J. Kohler made it necessary for Mrs. Laird to resign from the Wisconsin Free Library Board, to which she had been named in June, 1950, by Gov. Oscar Rennebohm.

She was a member and president of the Marshfield Board of Education, on which she served from September, 1942, until June, 1946.

Mrs. Laird had been appointed to the board originally to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. D. J. Van Patter. She was elected to a three-year term in April, 1944, and served until making her decision to resign.

During World War II she was appointed one of 25 state directors of the Wisconsin War Fund, organized to support a broader standard of giving in the various war and community chest drives.

She also served from 1936 to 1939 on the Marshfield Free Library Board.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin in 1912, Mrs. Laird was one of the founders of the Beta chapter of Theta Sigma Phi at the University. When the honorary journalism sorority held its silver anniversary banquet for the Matrix Table in 1955 to honor 500 outstanding women of Madison and the University, Mrs. Laird was selected as toastmistress.

For many years she was secretary of the Connor Lumber and Land Company, being succeeded by her son in August, 1952.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

10  
NEWS-HERALD  
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

Date: 12/9/68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: EDWARD W. HELLER

Title: MELVIN R. LAIRD

Character:

or

Classification: 161-459-9

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

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FBI - MILWAUKEE

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Former Lieutenant Governor Defense Chief's Grandfather

A grandfather of Rep. Melvin R. Laird came to the Wood County pinery as an 8-year-old boy to carve out a career in both industry and politics, and capped his political life as lieutenant governor of Wisconsin.

William D. Connor was 80 years old when he died Nov. 20, 1944, in Phoenix, Ariz.

The 1945 Legislature said of him in a memorial resolution:

"An indomitable courage and tenacity of purpose carried him through crises to which men of lesser capacity would have succumbed.

"It is with regret and reluctance that the state witnesses the passing of another pioneer, another link with the past and the representative of another political era."

\* \* \*

Connor had served more than 20 years as a member of the Wood County Board, for many years as its chairman. As a Republican, he became prominently identified with the case of Robert M. La Follette Sr. and the Progressive party, particularly in the early years which saw the schism developing between the Stalwart and Half-Breed factions of the GOP.

Connor was born at Stratford, Ontario, Can., March 24, 1864, the son of Robert Connor, a native of Scotland. Robert's brothers, John and James,

preceded him by a few months in the trek across Michigan and Wisconsin, finding what they sought in the northern area of Wood County in 1872.

Together the brothers cleared the land, planned the village of Ashburndale, built a store and post office, started a school and constructed a sawmill.

Young William Duncan Connor combined work in the sawmill with his schooling. He attended Lake Forest Academy and the State Normal School, hoping to become a lawyer, but the lumber business directed his life into that area.

He constructed the mill at Stratford, named for the place of his birth, and became president of the R. Connor Lumber Co. in 1896. The previous year main offices of the firm had been moved to Marshfield, for better supervision over two mills in Clark County and seven others in the area under cutting contracts. Connor Lumber and Land Co. headquarters were established in Laona in 1900.

\* \* \*

Connor became increasingly prominent in political affairs. From 1904 to 1906 he was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee and served as lieutenant governor under James O. Davidson in 1907-08.

Previously he had been a delegate to numerous state conventions of the party and was a delegate to the national convention in 1904. During World War I he was chairman of the Wisconsin Council of

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

10

NEWS-HERALD  
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

Date: 12/9/68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: EDWARD W. HELIER

Title: MELVIN R. LAIRD

Character:

or

Classification: 161-459-8

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

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FBI - MILWAUKEE

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Defense.

For many years he was president of the old American National Bank here and the First National Bank of Stevens Point.

Connor's interest was largely responsible for the establishment of the Marshfield Free Library, which he served as president for 15 years. He had been a trustee of Carroll College at Waukesha and of the now vanished Wood County Normal School in Wisconsin Rapids.

He married Miss Mary B. Witter of Wisconsin Rapids Aug. 11, 1886. She preceded him in death July 16, 1935.

The former lieutenant governor was 80 years old when he was stricken with pneumonia in June, 1944. He recovered sufficiently to leave the hospital here and go to Laona. That fall Wisconsin's changeable weather sent him to Phoenix, where he died three weeks later.

The roots of the Connor enterprises in Wood County were cut in 1954, when headquarters of the Connor Lumber and Land Co. was transferred to Wausau.

Connor's daughter, Mrs. Helen C. Laird, mother of the new defense secretary, and son W. D. Connor, continue to make their home in Marshfield. The other children are Gordon, Wausau; Richard, Laona, and Mrs. James D. Modrall, Albuquerque, N.M.



William D. Connor





**WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE CHAMBER**  
MADISON  
53702

December 27, 1968

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: MELVIN R. LAIRD

I, WILLIAM P. NUGENT, Chief Clerk of the Wisconsin Senate do hereby certify that on page 4 of the Senate Journal of January 8, 1947 appears the Certification of Election by the Secretary of State of MELVIN R. LAIRD to complete the balance of a term (two years). The recording of Melvin R. Laird and other senators taking their oath as Wisconsin State Senators is recorded on page 5 of the Senate Journal of January 8, 1947. Page 17 of the Senate Journal of January 8, 1947 records the appointment of Melvin R. Laird to the Committee on Labor and Management and to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

A Certification by the Secretary of State for the Senators-Elect, including Melvin R. Laird for a 4-year term, appears on page 4 of the Senate Journal of January 12, 1949. Recording of the Oath is also on page 4 of the same journal. Page 17 of the Senate Journal of January 12, 1949 records the appointment of Melvin R. Laird as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance. Page 5 of the Senate Journal of January 10, 1951 records the appointment of Melvin R. Laird to the position of Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance. The Wisconsin Legislature adjourned sine die on June 14, 1951, which is recorded on page 1721 of the Senate Journal.

Senator Laird appears on practically all of the roll calls recorded in the Senate Journal between January 8, 1947 and June 14, 1951.

*William P. Nugent* 161-459  
WILLIAM P. NUGENT, Chief Clerk Senate

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of December, 1968.

*Jerome M. Meyer* ..... Notary Public, Dane County, Wisconsin.  
My Commission expires February 6, 1969.

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*Baldwin* *TCM*

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12/23/68

Airtel

72-388

161- 5770-1

To: SACs, Washington Field - Enc.  
Milwaukee - Enc.  
Minneapolis - Enc.  
Los Angeles - Enc.

From: Director, FBI

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.  
SPECIAL INQUIRY  
BUDED: 12/27/68

ReButel today.

Attached for your assistance is a copy of SF 86  
concerning appointee.

MAILED 24

DEC 23 1968

COMM-FBI

OJA: pnh  
(10)

MAR 12 1969

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐ RETURN TO MR. YOUNG, ROOM 1256.

SECURITY INVESTIGATION DATA  
FOR SENSITIVE POSITION

CASE SERIAL NO. (CSC use only)

BOB approval No. 50-R208

INSTRUCTIONS.—Prepare in triplicate, using a typewriter. Fill in all items. If the answer is "No" or "None," so state. If more space is needed for any item, continue under item 28.

1. FULL NAME (Initials and abridgements of full name are not acceptable. If no middle name, show "(NMN)"; if initials only, show "(no given or middle name)"	(LAST NAME) <b>LAIRD</b>	(FIRST NAME) <b>Melvin Jr.</b>	(MIDDLE NAME) <b>Robert</b>	2. DATE OF BIRTH <b>September 1, 1922</b>
OTHER NAMES USED. (Maiden name, names by former marriages, former names changed legally or otherwise, aliases, nicknames, etc. Specify which, and show dates used.) <b>nickname "Bom" used only by close friends</b> <b>LAIRD, MELVIN R. JR.</b>				3. PLACE OF BIRTH <b>Omaha, Nebraska</b>
				4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
5. HEIGHT <b>6' 0"</b>		WEIGHT <b>193</b>	COLOR EYES <b>brown</b>	COLOR HAIR <b>brown</b>

6. <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOW(ER) <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED	7. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED, GIVE FULL NAME AND DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH OF SPOUSE OR FORMER SPOUSE. INCLUDE WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME. GIVE DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE OR DIVORCE. (Give same information regarding all previous marriages and divorces.) <b>Barbara Laird (maiden name: Barbara Masters) born March 9, 1922</b> <b>Married October 15, 1945</b> <b>Indianapolis, Indiana</b>
--	---

8. DATES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE. (If actual places of residence differ from the mailing addresses, furnish and identify both. Begin with present and go back to January 1, 1937. Continue under item 28 on other side if necessary.)

FROM	TO	NUMBER AND STREET	CITY	STATE
1953	present	313A E. 3rd St.	Marshfield	Wisconsin
1947	1953	301A S. Cherry St.	Marshfield	Wisconsin
1937	1947	208 S. Cherry St.	Marshfield	Wisconsin

Temporary residences in Washington, D. C. at 6812 Georgia Street from Dec. 1952 until 1956; and at 5703 Kirkwood Drive, Washington, D. C. 20016, from that time on.

9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BY BIRTH <input type="checkbox"/> NATURALIZED	ALIEN REGISTRATION NO.	DATE, PLACE, AND COURT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. CITIZEN	CERT. NO.	PETITION NO.	
<input type="checkbox"/> ALIEN	REGISTRATION NO.	NATIVE COUNTRY	DATE AND PORT OF ENTRY
<input type="checkbox"/> DERIVED-PARENTS CERT. NO(S).			

10. EDUCATION. (All schools above elementary.)

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADDRESS	FROM (Year)	TO (Year)	DEGREES
Marshfield Jr. High School	Marshfield, Wis.	1936	1938	
Lake Forest Academy	Lake Forest, Ill.	1938	1939	
Marshfield Sr. High School	Marshfield, Wis.	1939	1940	
Carleton College	Northfield, Minn.	1940	1944	B. A.

REC 82

MCT-20

5792

DEC 24 1966

NTM

11. THIS SPACE FOR FBI USE. (See also item 29.)

12. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER **392-14-5736**

13. MILITARY SERVICE (Past or present) **Navy**

SERIAL NO. (If none, give grade or rating at separation)	BRANCH OF SERVICE (Army, Navy, Air Force, etc.)	FROM (Yr.)	TO (Yr.)
<b>331 064</b>	<b>Navy</b>	<b>1942</b>	<b>1946</b>



14. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY OR NAVY OR AIR FORCE UNDER OTHER THAN HONORABLE CONDITIONS? YES ☐ NO ☒  
(If answer is "Yes," give details in item 28.)

15. EMPLOYMENT. (List ALL employment dates starting with your present employment. Give both month and year for all dates. Show ALL dates and addresses when unemployed. Give name under which employed if different from name now used.)

FROM	TO	NAME OF EMPLOYER (Firm or agency) AND SUPERVISOR (Full name, if known)	ADDRESS (Where employed)	TYPE OF WORK	REASON FOR LEAVING
Jan., 1953	Jan., 1969	House of Representatives Washington, D. C.		M. C.	appt. to Defense Secretary
1946	1952	Connor Building Supply Co.	Laona, Wis.	Secretary-elected to Congress	
1946	1952	Laona Northern Railroad	" "	Secretary-Treasurer	

16. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DISCHARGED (FIRED) FROM EMPLOYMENT FOR ANY REASON? ☐ YES ☒ NO.

17. HAVE YOU EVER RESIGNED (QUIT) AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT YOUR EMPLOYER INTENDED TO DISCHARGE (FIRE) YOU FOR ANY REASON? ☐ YES ☒ NO.  
(If your answer to 16 or 17 above is "Yes" give details in item 28. Show the name and address of employer, approximate date, and reasons in each case. This information should agree with the statements made in item 15—EMPLOYMENT.)

18. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED, TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, HELD FOR INVESTIGATION OR QUESTIONING, OR CHARGED BY ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY?  
(You may omit: (1) Traffic violations for which you paid a fine of \$30 or less; and (2) anything that happened before your 16th birthday. All other incidents must be included, even though they were dismissed or you merely forfeited collateral.) ☐ YES ☒ NO.

IF YOUR ANSWER IS "YES," GIVE FULL DETAILS BELOW:

DATE	CHARGE	PLACE	LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY	ACTION TAKEN
------	--------	-------	------------------------------	--------------

(SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED AGENCY OFFICIAL)

19. HAVE YOU EVER HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN OR HAVE YOU EVER HAD MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR A MENTAL CONDITION? ☐ YES ☒ NO.  
(If your answer is "Yes," give details in item 28.)

20. FOREIGN COUNTRIES VISITED (SINCE 1930). (Exclusive of military service.)

COUNTRY

DATE LEFT U.S.A.

DATE RETURNED U.S.A.

PURPOSE

See Item 28

21. ARE YOU NOW, OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN, A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A., OR ANY COMMUNIST OR FASCIST ORGANIZATION? ☐ YES ☒ NO.

22. ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF ANY FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC ORGANIZATION, ASSOCIATION, MOVEMENT, GROUP, OR COMBINATION OF PERSONS WHICH IS TOTALITARIAN, FASCIST, COMMUNIST, OR SUBVERSIVE, OR WHICH HAS ADOPTED, OR SHOWS, A POLICY OF ADVOCATING OR APPROVING THE COMMISSION OF ACTS OF FORCE OR VIOLENCE TO DENY OTHER PERSONS THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, OR WHICH SEEKS TO ALTER THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY UNCONSTITUTIONAL MEANS? ☐ YES ☒ NO.

23. IF YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 21 OR 22 ABOVE IS "YES," STATE THE NAMES OF ALL SUCH ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, MOVEMENTS, GROUPS, OR COMBINATIONS OF PERSONS AND DATES OF MEMBERSHIP. IN ITEM 28 OR ON A SEPARATE SHEET TO BE ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THIS FORM, GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF YOUR ACTIVITIES THEREIN AND MAKE ANY EXPLANATION YOU DESIRE REGARDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR ACTIVITIES.

NAME IN FULL

ADDRESS

FROM

TO

OFFICE HELD

24. MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. (List all organizations in which you are now a member or have been a member, except those which show religious or political affiliations.) (If none, so state.)

NAME IN FULL

ADDRESS

TYPE

FROM

TO

OFFICE HELD

Am. Legion Post 54, Marshfield, Wis.		service	1946	1968	
Am. Legion 40 et 8	" "	"	1951	1968	
Free & Accepted Masons, Marshfield, Wis.		fraternal	1952	1968	
Military Order of Purple Heart		service	1944	1968	
United Commercial Travelers, Marshfield		fraternal	1950	1968	
Jr. Chamber of Commerce, Marshfield		business	1950	1968	
Elks Lodge, Marshfield, Wisconsin		fraternal	1946	1968	

25. RELATIVES. (Parents, spouse, divorced spouse, children, brothers, and sisters, living or dead. Name of spouse should include maiden name and any other names by previous marriage. If person is dead, state "dead" after relationship and furnish information for other columns as of time of death.)

RELATION

NAME IN FULL

YEAR OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

PRESENT CITIZENSHIP

Father/dead	Melvin R. Laird Sr.	1878	Marshfield, Wis.	U. S.	U. S.
Mother	Mrs. Helen C. Laird	1888	" "	U. S.	U. S.
wife	Barbara Masters Laird	1922	" "	U. S.	U. S.
				U. S.	U. S.
				U. S.	U. S.
				U. S.	U. S.
Brother/dead	Connor Laird	1914	" "	U. S.	U. S.
Brother/dead	Richard M. Laird	1915	Madison, Wisconsin	U. S.	U. S.
				U. S.	U. S.

26a. REFERENCES. (Name three persons, not relatives or employers, who are aware of your qualifications and fitness.)

NAME IN FULL	HOME ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	YEARS KNOWN
Hon. John Byrnes, M.C., 1215 25th St., Arlington, Va., 2206 Rayburn HOB			since 1940
Hon. Glenard Lipscomb, M.C., 5810 Osceola Rd., D.C., 2245 Rayburn HOB			since 1953
Hon. Geo. Mahon, M.C., 1200 N. Nash, Arlington, Va., 2314 Rayburn HOB			since 1953

26b. CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATES. (Name three persons, such as friends, schoolmates or colleagues, who know you well.)

NAME IN FULL	HOME ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	YEARS KNOWN
--------------	--------------	------------------	-------------

See Attachment

27. TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A FULL FIELD OR BACKGROUND PERSONAL INVESTIGATION BY ANY AGENCY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT? ☒ YES ☐ NO: (If your answer is "Yes," show in item 28, (1) the name of the investigating agency (2) the approximate date of investigation, and (3) the level of security clearance granted, if known.) See attachment

28. SPACE FOR CONTINUING ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS. (Show item numbers to which answers apply. Attach a separate sheet if there is not enough space here.)

20. As a Member of Congress, I visited most of the countries of western Europe and also East Germany. All of my foreign visits have been as a Member of Congress on government business or sponsored by one of the military services. I visited Europe and certain Middle East countries in 1953 and again visited Europe in 1959 and 1965. I am available for interview to supply additional information on my foreign travels. They have all been in connection with the World Health Organization and by membership on the House Appropriations Committee.

29. REPORT OF INFORMATION DEVELOPED. (This space reserved for FBI use.)

DATE:

Before signing this form check back over it to make sure you have answered all questions fully and correctly.

#### CERTIFICATION

I CERTIFY that the statements made by me on this form are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith.

False statement on this form  
is punishable by law.

December 14, 1968

(DATE)

(SIGNATURE—Sign original and first carbon copy)

#### INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED BY AGENCY

INSTRUCTIONS TO AGENCY: See Federal Personnel Manual Chapter 736 and FPM Supplement 296-31, Appendix A, for details on when this form is required and how it is used. If this is a request for investigation before appointment, insert "APPL" in the space for Date of Appointment and show information about the proposed appointment in the other spaces for appointment data. The original and the first carbon copy should be signed by the applicant or appointee. Submit the original and the unsigned carbon copy of the form, Standard Form 87 (Fingerprint Chart), and any investigative information about the person received on voucher forms or otherwise, to the United States Civil Service Commission, Bureau of Personnel Investigations, Washington, D.C., 20415. If this is a request for full field security investigation, submit these forms to the attention of the Division of Reimbursable Investigations; if this is a request for preappointment national agency checks, submit these forms to the attention of the Control Section.

RETAIN THE CARBON COPY OF STANDARD FORM 86 (SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT OR APPOINTEE) FOR YOUR FILES

DATE OF APPOINTMENT	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT <input type="checkbox"/> EXCEPTED <input type="checkbox"/> COMPETITIVE. (Include indefinite and temporary types of competitive appointments.)	CIVIL SERVICE REGULATION NUMBER OR OTHER APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY	TITLE OF POSITION AND GRADE OR SALARY
DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY	DUTY STATION	SEND RESULTS OF PREAPPOINTMENT CHECK TO:	
THIS IS A SENSITIVE POSITION			
(SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED AGENCY OFFICIAL)			

SECURITY INVESTIGATION DATA  
FOR SENSITIVE POSITION

Hon. Melvin R. Laird  
Member of Congress

b6  
b7c

26b.

Robert F. Froehlke, (have known him all my life)

home address: [REDACTED]

business " [REDACTED]

Ed Heller, (have known him all my life)

home address: 410 W. Blodgett, Marshfield, Wisconsin

business " Marshfield News-Herald, 111 W. 3rd St., Marshfield, Wisconsin

Steve Derounian, (have known him since 1953)

home address: 15 Carteret Place, Garden City, N. Y.

business " 600 Old Country Road, Garden City, N. Y.

27.

Received top security clearance in 1956 when I became a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.



Tolson ☒  
 DeLoach ☒  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale ☒  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UPI-7

(LAIRD)

NEW YORK--RICHARD NIXON HAS CHOSEN REP. MELVIN R. LAIRD, R-WIS., TO BE HIS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, THE NEW YORK TIMES SAID TODAY. LAIRD AND NIXON AGREED UPON THE APPOINTMENT FRIDAY WHILE FLYING TO THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS CONFERENCE AT PALM SPRINGS, CALIF., ACCORDING TO THE TIMES.

WASHINGTON COLUMNISTS ROLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK ALSO SAID TODAY LAIRD WOULD BE THE NEW DEFENSE SECRETARY.

LAIRD, WHO HAS GENERALLY TAKEN A HARD LINE ON VIETNAM, WAS OFFERED THE POSITION AFTER IT WAS TURNED DOWN BY SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., ACCORDING TO BOTH REPORTS.

LAIRD, 46, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY-MAKING HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE AND ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL REPUBLICANS ON CAPITOL HILL. THE CONGRESSMAN HAS INDICATED THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT SETTLE FOR ANYTHING SHORT OF A "FREE" SOUTH VIETNAM.

JACKSON, RETURNING TO SEATTLE, WASH., LAST NIGHT FROM HONOLULU, TOLD NEWSMEN HE WOULD MEET WITH NIXON IN NEW YORK ON FRIDAY, BUT ONLY TO DISCUSS NATIONAL SECURITY. HE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS LINKING HIM TO THE CABINET POST.

12/9--JJ918AES

161-5792-A  
 NOT RECORDED  
 184 MAR 3 1969

37X  
 05 MAR 5 1969

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Bh

12/23/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

*Rec 12/27/68  
per Hutchins*

TO SACS WASHINGTON FIELD - ENC. (4) (BSM)  
MILWAUKEE  
MINNEAPOLIS  
ST. LOUIS  
BALTIMORE  
LOS ANGELES  
BOSTON  
NEW YORK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 23 1968  
437 P 9 PM  
TELETYPE

VIA TELETYPE  
DEC 23 1968  
ENCIPHERED

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED  
DECEMBER TWENTYSEVEN, NEXT, WITHOUT FAIL.

*Melvin R. Laird*

NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS REQUESTED EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION  
OF LAIRD, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BY PRESIDENT-ELECT.

BORN SEPTEMBER ONE, NINETEEN TWENTYTWO, OMAHA, NEBRASKA,  
AND IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER BARBARA MASTERS. RESIDES THREE  
ONE THREE A EAST THIRD STREET, MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN, AND HAS  
TEMPORARY RESIDENCE AT FIVE SEVEN ZERO THREE KIRKWOOD DRIVE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C. RECEIVED BA DEGREE CARLETON COLLEGE,  
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA, NINETEEN FORTYFOUR. SERVED U.S. NAVY  
NINETEEN FORTYTWO TO NINETEEN FORTYSIX, NSN THREE THREE ONE  
ZERO SIX FOUR.

REC-24 MCT-33 161-57722

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Request received today from Nixon Administration.

OJA:pnh  
(5)

54 MAR 13 1969

RETURN TO MR. YOUNG, ROOM 1256.

*WSE*  
*Wick*

*WJ*

*ova*

*see*

TELETYPE TO WASHINGTON FIELD  
RE: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

LAIRD EMPLOYED LAONA NORTHERN RAILROAD, LAONA, WISCONSIN,  
AS SECRETARY-TREASURER, AND CONNOR BUILDING SUPPLY COMPANY,  
LAONA, WISCONSIN, AS SECRETARY FROM NINETEEN FORTYSIX TO NINETEEN  
FIFTYTWO.

HE HAS BEEN MEMBER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM  
WISCONSIN SINCE JANUARY, NINETEEN FIFTYTHREE. FORMER MEMBER  
WISCONSIN STATE SENATE.

LAIRD'S FATHER DECEASED. WIFE, THREE CHILDREN, AND MOTHER,  
MRS. HELEN C. LAIRD, RESIDE MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TWO BROTHERS  
DECEASED.

b6  
b7C

CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATES LISTED BY LAIRD INCLUDE  
ROBERT F. FROEHLKE, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ED HELLER, FOUR ONE  
ZERO W. BLODGETT, MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN, BUSINESS ADDRESS  
MARSHFIELD NEWS DASH HERALD, ONE ONE ONE WEST THIRD STREET,  
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN; AND STEVE DEROUNIAN, FIFTEEN CARTERET  
PLACE, GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK, BUSINESS ADDRESS SIX ZERO ZERO OLD  
COUNTRY ROAD, GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK.

SEE WHO'S WHO FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND DATA. STANDARD  
FORM EIGHTYSIX FOLLOWS BY AIRTEL FOR WFO, MILWAUKEE, MINNEAPOLIS,  
AND LOS ANGELES.

TELETYPE TO WASHINGTON FIELD  
RE: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

NO NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED UNLESS  
INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED NECESSITATING SAME, AT WHICH TIME  
PRIOR BUREAU AUTHORITY SHOULD BE SECURED.

DUE TO URGENT NATURE OF REQUEST, IT IS IMPERATIVE BUDED  
BE MET WITHOUT FAIL. NO DELAY WILL BE TOLERATED.

SPIN.



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

12/24, 1968

☒ Name Searching Unit - Room 6527  
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524  
☒ Forward to File Review  
☐ Attention Mr. Coile  
☐ Return to Mr. [unclear] 1260/2428  
 Supervisor Room Ext.

## Type of References Requested:

☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive References Only  
☐ Nonsubversive References Only  
☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

Type of Search Requested: DEC 24 1968

☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject Melvin Robert Laird  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# R3721 Date 12-24-68 Searcher Initials 146  
 Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

NR b3 b7E

MELVIN R

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WASHINGTON POST POSTING

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100-1102882-1

123-12388-12

123-12388-12

123-12388-12

123-12388-12

123-12388-12

123-12388-12

123-12388-12

Author of A House Divided - Burroughs

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: WARD, (DEAN) ROBERT

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# K372 Date 12-24 Searcher Initial 146

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_ *A*

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Belarus R / RRS

~~SI~~ 62-104206-5

12-24, 1968

☐ Name Searching Unit - Room 6527  
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524  
☐ Forward to File Review  
☐ Attention \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Return to \_\_\_\_\_

Type of References Requested:

☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive References Only  
☐ Nonsubversive References Only  
☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

☐ Restricted to Locality of DC W.D.C.  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject Larry Richard M.  
Birthdate & Place  
Address

### Localities

R# 106 Date 12-2/4 Searcher Initials 146

Prod.

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

b6

-b7c

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gale *[Signature]*

FROM : W. V. Cleveland *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: SPECIAL INQUIRIES  
NIXON ADMINISTRATION  
CABINET APPOINTEES

DATE: December 23, 1968

Tolson ☒  
DeLoach ☒  
Mohr ☐  
Bishop ☐  
Casper ☐  
Callahan ☐  
Conrad ☐  
Felt ☒  
Gale ☒  
Rosen ☐  
Sullivan ☐  
Tavel ☐  
Trotter ☐  
Tele. Room ☐  
Holmes ☐  
Gandy ☐

We have today received requests for investigations from the Nixon Administration of the following individuals who have been named to Mr. Nixon's Cabinet:

Clifford M. Hardin, Secretary of Agriculture;

Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior;

Melvin R. Laird, Secretary of Defense;

George W. Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

George P. Shultz, Secretary of Labor;

John A. Volpe, Secretary of Transportation;

Maurice H. Stans, Secretary of Commerce.

## ACTION:

The cases have been ordered separately to the field for immediate attention, and you will be advised of any unusual developments. The field has been instructed to conduct no neighborhood investigations in these cases without prior Bureau approval.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Cleveland
- 1 - Mr. Young

DHY:dbh

(6) *[Signature]*

*Director was advised  
12/31/68*

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
161-57722  
*[Signature]*



*B. [unclear]*

BA USE ONLY

AGENCY	RES.	DATE	EXT.
DCII	/	12/26	JB
AIRR			
NIS	2		
OSI			
STATUS: [unclear]			

BALTIMORE 04 618PM VXC

URGENT 12-23-68 FSM **SENT BY CODED TELETYPE**

TO WASHINGTON FIELD MILWAUKEE MINNEAPOLIS ST. LOUIS

BALTIMORE LOS ANGELES BOSTON NEW YORK PLAINTEXT  
FROM DIRECTOR 3P

*WFO telephonically  
advised 12/26 jmg*

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED  
DECEMBER TWENTYSEVEN, NEXT, WITHOUT FAIL.

**WFO TO  
HANDLE**

NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS REQUESTED EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION  
OF LAIRD, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BY PRESIDENT-  
ELECT.

BORN SEPTEMBER ONE, NINETEEN TWENTYTWO, OMAHA, NEBRASKA,  
AND IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER BARBARA MASTERS. RESIDES THREE  
ONE THREE A EAST THIRD STREET, MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN, AND HAS  
TEMPORARY RESIDENCE AT FIVE SEVEN ZERO THREE KIRKWOOD DRIVE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C. RECEIVED BA DEGREE CARLETON COLLEGE,  
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA, NINETEEN FORTYFOUR. SERVED U.S. NAVY  
NINETEEN FORTYTWO TO NINETEEN FORTYSIX, NSN THREE THREE ONE  
ZERO SIX FOUR.  
END PAGE ONE

**BA FILE TO DE  
DESTROYED IN 60 DAYS**

161-24  
~~SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
DEC 26 1968  
FBI - BALTIMORE~~  
*[initials]*

PAGE TWO

LAIRD EMPLOYED LAONA NORTHERN RAILROAD, LAONA, WISCONSIN, AS SECRETARY-TREASURER, AND CONNOR BUILDING SUPPLY COMPANY, LAONA, WISCONSIN, AS SECRETARY FROM NINETEEN FORTYSIX TO NINETEEN FIFTYTWO.

HE HAS BEEN MEMBER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM WISCONSIN SINCE JANUARY, NINETEEN FIFTYTHREE. FORMER MEMBER WISCONSIN STATE SENATE.

LAIRD'S FATHER DECEASED. WIFE, THREE CHILDREN, AND MOTHER, MRS. HELEN C. LAIRD, RESIDE MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TWO BROTHERS DECEASED.

b6  
b7c

CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATES LISTED BY LAIRD INCLUDE ROBERT F. FROEHLKE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ED HELLER, FOUR ONE ZERO W. BLODGETT, MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN, BUSINESS ADDRESS MARSHFIELD NEWS DASH HERALD, ONE ONE ONE WEST THIRD STREET, MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN AND STEVE DEROUNIAN, FIFTEEN CARTERET PLACE, GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK, BUSINESS ADDRESS SIX ZERO ZERO OLD COUNTRY ROAD, GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK.

SEE WHO'S WHO FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND DATA. STANDARD FROM EIGHTYSIX FOLLOWS BY AIRTEL FOR WFO, MILWAUKEE, MINNEAPOLIS, AND LOS ANGELES.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

NO NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED UNLESS  
INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED NECESSITATING SAME, AT WHICH TIME  
PRIOR BUREAU AUTHORITY SHOULD BE SECURED.

DUE TO URGENT NATURE OF REQUEST, IT IS IMPERATIVE BUDED  
BE MET WITHOUT FAIL. NO DELAY WILL BE TOLERATED.

SPIN.

END

TLN

FBI BALO

FBI BALTO



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MELVIN R. LAIRD  
SEVENTH DISTRICT  
WISCONSIN

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Bishop	✓
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Thank you for your kind expression of  
congratulations on my appointment as Secretary of  
Defense-designate.

The job is a big responsibility and I  
want you to know how much I appreciate your kind  
words and expression of support.

May the year 1969 bring peace throughout  
the world.

With best wishes and kindest personal  
regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Melvin R. Laird

REC-12

EX-103

51 JAN 13 1969

161-5792-3  
12 JAN 8 1969



SAC, New York

1/30/69

Director, FBI

1 - C. D. Brennan  
1 - Liaison  
1 - P. D. Putnam

MELVIN R. LAIRD  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
PUBLIC APPEARANCE 2/1-2/69

GENERAL WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND  
CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
PUBLIC APPEARANCE 2/6/69

The Office of The Provost Marshal General (OTPMG), United States Army, has advised that Secretary of Defense Melvin D. Laird will be leaving Washington, D.C., at one p.m. on 2/1/69 for New York City and will be returning to Washington at one p.m. on 2/2/69. While in New York, he will be meeting with United Nations officials. It is anticipated by the OTPMG that some publicity will be afforded this meeting.

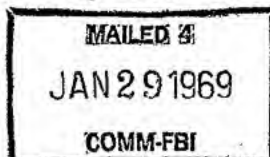
The Army Chief of Staff William C. Westmoreland will be traveling to New York City from Washington, D.C., at 11 a.m. on 2/6/69. He is scheduled to return to Washington from New York City at 6 p.m. the same date. While in New York, he is to have lunch with representatives of "Newsweek" magazine and to attend a meeting of the Calvin Bullock Forum at One Wall Street.

In the event you receive any information concerning demonstrations directed against the Secretary or the General, this information should be promptly furnished the Bureau as well as appropriate local agencies.

PDP:kw  
(6)

NOTE:

The above information was furnished Liaison Agent Putnam by Mr. Harry V. Nelson, OTPMG, on 1/29/69.



XEROX  
JAN 30 1969  
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EX-104

10 JAN 29 1969

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐  
6 FEB 6 1969

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Nelson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE: 12/9/68

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN MELVIN R. LAIRD(R--WISCONSIN)  
POSSIBLE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
IN NIXON ADMINISTRATION

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
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Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The 12/9/68 issue of the "Washington Evening Star" reported that President-elect Nixon had chosen captioned individual to be Secretary of Defense.

Our files reveal that Laird was born on 9/1/22 at Marshfield, Wisconsin. He attended Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, graduating with a B. A. degree in 1942. He was elected to the 83rd Congress on 11/4/52, and has been re-elected to subsequent Congresses, for which we have congratulated him on a number of occasions, the most recent on 11/6/68.

Our files reveal that we have enjoyed cordial relations with him and have had limited but friendly correspondence, mostly of a constituent nature. He and his son toured the Bureau in 1959, and an autographed copy of "A Study Of Communism" was sent to him in January, 1963. Congressman Laird in return sent the Director a copy of his book, "A House Divided," which was autographed "to my friend J. Edgar Hoover, best wishes, Mel Laird." On 11/9/67, the Director sent him a letter of condolence on the death of his brother which resulted from a traffic accident in Madison, Wisconsin.

Laird is on the House Appropriations Committee. No arrest record was located concerning him.

## RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Callahan 30 1969

JCF:pa  
(6)

54 MAR 11 1969

161-5792-208  
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Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UPI-24

(LAIRD)

WASHINGTON--PRESIDENT-ELECT RICHARD M. NIXON IS MAKING A SHARP BREAK WITH PRECEDENT IN SELECTING REP. MELVIN LAIRD, R-WIS., TO HEAD THE PENTAGON. LAIRD WILL BE THE FIRST DEFENSE SECRETARY RECRUITED FROM CAPITOL HILL.

THE BREAK IS PROBABLY INTENTIONAL, PORTENDING AN ERA OF SMOOTHER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, THE NATION'S LARGEST EMPLOYER, AND A CONGRESS WHICH MADE A PRACTICE OF CALLING LAIRD'S PREDECESSORS TO PERSONAL ACCOUNT FOR EVERYTHING FROM BOOT LACES TO BATTLESHIPS.

THE 46-YEAR-OLD CONGRESSMAN'S SELECTION FOR THE POST HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED BY NIXON HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK, BUT INFORMED REPUBLICAN SOURCES SAID THE APPOINTMENT WAS SET FOR ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW EVENING WHEN NIXON UNVEILS HIS ENTIRE CABINET ON NATIONAL TELEVISION.

12/10--EG1007AES

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 184 MAR 3 1969

59 MAR 4 - 1969

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



# Laird Reported To Be Nixon's Pentagon Choice

## GOP Veteran Wants Quick Viet Accord

By George C. Wilson  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Rep. Melvin R. Laird (R-Wis.) is slated to be President Nixon's Secretary of Defense.

First word of the appointment came in a column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, distributed yesterday for publication in The Washington Post and other newspapers. They reported flatly that Laird will be Nixon's Defense Secretary.

Evans and Novak said that although Laird seems superficially to be a hard-line anti-Communist in foreign policy, he will be a strong force for a quickly negotiated Vietnam settlement "and has acknowledged the probability of a coalition government in Saigon."

### Will Exert Influence

The columnists also said that Laird, with his "wide-ranging interests and energy" is certain to exert influence on such non-defense matters as fiscal policy, social welfare and the rebuilding of the cities. [Column appears on Page A21.]

Nixon aides confirmed last night that Laird has been asked and has accepted.

"It is 99 and 44/100 per cent sure," said a Nixon aide. "The only thing that could go wrong would be if he (Nixon) changes his mind at the last minute—and he won't."

Laird has capitalized on his position on the House Defense Appropriations subcommittee to become his party's leading spokesman on military policy, and has proved to be more accurate than the Pentagon itself on the cost of the Vietnam war.

But as an eight-term Congressman, he has had little administrative experience that would prepare him for running the huge defense establishment. Moreover, he will be pitted against a Democratic Congress that remembers him as a hard-headed member of the opposition.

Nixon is expected to announce the appointment within the next few days.

### Wanted Strong Voice

Laird was offered the Pentagon post after Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) turned it down.

While explanations varied on why Jackson rejected the position, one source high in the Nixon camp said last night that the Washington Senator demanded more freedom of action than any President could grant.

Laird, who was at Nixon's side through much of the pol-

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
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Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



The Washington Post Times Herald A-1  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date DEC 9 1968

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184 MAR 3 1969

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59 MAR 4 - 1969

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tical campaign, was asked shortly after the election if he were interested in a Cabinet post.

The supposition at that time, according to Nixon aides, was that Laird might be interested in being Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

The 46-year-old Congressman is the ranking Republican on the House Appropriations HEW Subcommittee and has shown intense interest in that field.

But Laird at that time said he wanted to stay in the House, presumably in hopes of eventually becoming the Republican leader there. He already is chairman of the House Republican Conference—the party caucus group.

After Jackson turned down the defense post late last week, Laird's name came up for fresh consideration. Another Congressman discussed for the job was Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, Republican leader of the House.

If Ford had become Defense Secretary, there was a good chance Laird would have advanced to the House Republican leadership spot.

Ford had been ranking member on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee before becoming House Minor-

ity Leader. He thus could claim some military expertise.

But Laird is on that same military subcommittee and has been the most outspoken Republican in the House on defense issues in recent years.

He took on former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and his comptroller, Robert N. Anthony, long before most of his colleagues thought it was safe.

Laird—first in closed appropriations hearings on the defense budget and later out on the House floor—tore into the Pentagon's estimates on what the Vietnam war was costing and put out some of his own which proved to be more accurate.

Always trying to find chinks in the Democratic Party's armor, Laird struck hard at President Johnson's promise in October, 1966, to withdraw American troops from Vietnam within six months, if Hanoi would do likewise and stop infiltration.

aid such a promise could be a disaster and that he could therefore no longer fully support the Johnson Administration's war policy. He worked to back the GOP away from the President's Vietnam policy so that the Republicans would not appear to be the war party during the election campaign.

This fear that the Republicans would look like hawks to the voters is believed to be behind Laird's claim during the campaign that President Johnson planned to bring some troops home from Vietnam—a claim hotly denied by the Pentagon.

Laird, as one of the hardest-nosed politicians in Washington, knew his assertion would undercut the Democrats if troops were indeed withdrawn. And, if they were not, it was the kind of political risk he frequently took for what he considered the larger interest of his party.

Nixon appreciated Laird's political acumen long before this year's presidential campaign.

Back in 1960, Nixon turned to Laird to push through the convention the compromise platform worked out by Nixon and New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Nixon's chief rival for the GOP presidential nomination.

In 1964, Laird was chairman of the Republican Convention Platform Committee. This year, he traveled with Nixon as an influential adviser and edited a thick book called the Republican Papers.

As Defense Secretary, Laird will head an organization that employs 4.8 million people and will spend about \$61 billion this year—half of the whole Federal budget.

Besides just the mechanical challenge of keeping such a vast establishment working, Laird will have to make some of the toughest policy decisions since World War II.

He comes to the Pentagon at the moment the United States must decide between going on to a whole new generation of costly weapons or settling for parity with the Soviet Union, hopefully through negotiations.

Laird has shown himself in his 16 years in Congress to be tough enough to stand up to the generals and the admirals who want to buy new weapons of mass destruction.

And his streak of fiscal conservatism promises to make him reluctant to buy billions of dollars worth of new hardware unless he is fully convinced the plunge is necessary.

At the same time he will be Secretary of Defense for a President who charged the last administration with a "security gap" and warned of Russia's progress in strategic weaponry.

So Laird presumably will have to take steps that seem to close that gap without spending all the billions the military chiefs want to lay out for new weapons.

The likeliest course, giving the conditions the Defense Secretary inherits, is an increase in research and development toward new weapons without committing the Nixon Administration to buying them.

There are bound to be some other increases as well—such as building more than the 69 nuclear attack submarines McNamara set as the limit for the Navy. (Thirty-six are now operational.)

But any whole-hog buying of new weapons is considered unlikely.

For one thing, many military stocks have been depleted and other projects—such as building ships—were deferred because of the Vietnam War.

For another, many of these new weapon developments—such as the Sentinel anti-ballistic missile program—are just starting to run into big money.

These demands limit how much money Laird will have available in the Nixon budget for costly new weapons systems.

The new Defense Secretary is expected to buy time by conducting a broad review of military policy and the weapons for carrying it out rather than plunging right in and revamping Defense Secretary Clark Clifford's fiscal 1970 budget.

Laird also inherits the problem of the draft. Calls will be going up as the Nixon Administration takes office because

of the cyclical nature of the war.

A larger than ever percentage of the men to be drafted in 1969 will be college graduates—the most articulate protesters against the Vietnam war.

Nixon has pledged to buy a volunteer army—but not until the Vietnam war is over. So Laird must find a way to correct inequities in the draft law in the meantime.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 24 1968

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC\*

HOLD FOR 2 MSGS PLS

FBI ST LOUIS

153PM CST URGENT 12-24-68 MFS

TO: DIRECTOR AND WASHINGTON FIELD

FROM: ST. LOUIS (161-NPRC-M) 1P

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPID, BUDED: DEC. TWENTYSEVEN NEXT  
WITHOUT FAIL.

REBUTEL, DEC. TWENTYTHREE, LAST.

APPOINTEE'S US NAVY SERVICE RECORD NOT LOCATED NPRC,  
PROBABLY MAINTAINED BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL, WASH., D.C.

WFO REVIEW SERVICE FILE,

NOTE BUREAU ADVISED IMPERATIVE BUDED BE MET, NO DELAY  
WILL BE TOLERATED.

P

END

161-5792-6  
NOT RECORDED

22 JAN 30 1969

TELETYPED TO:

WFO

1 cc destroyed  
via post

54 MAR 13 1969

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 24 1968

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI MINNAPLS

448M 12-24-68 URGENT JMM

TO: DIRECTOR AND BOSTON

FROM: MINNEAPOLIS (161-472) 1P

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

MR. CLEVELAND  
ROOM 1246

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPI. BUDED DECEMBER TWENTY SEVEN NEXT.

RE BUREAU CONFERENCE TELETYPE DECEMBER TWENTY THREE LAST.

APPOINTEE ATTENDED CARLETON COLLEGE, NORTHFIELD, MINN., NINETEEN FORTY TO NINETEEN FORTY THREE WHERE HE COMPLETED HIS JUNIOR YEAR. IN JUNE, NINETEEN FORTY THREE APPOINTEE ENTERED U. S. NAVY IN V TWELVE PROGRAM AND ATTENDED ST. MARYS COLLEGE, WINONA, MINN. FROM JULY TO OCTOBER, NINETEEN FORTY THREE. THEREAFTER, THE DATES UNKNOWN BUT PRESUMABLY IN FALL OF NINETEEN FORTY THREE OR WINTER OF NINETEEN FORTY FOUR HE COMPLETED A COURSE OF STUDY AT THE NAVAL SUPPLY CORP SCHOOL, WELLSLEY, MASS., WELLSLEY UNIT.

161-5772-7  
NOT RECORDED  
22 JAN 30 1969

BOSTON AT WELLSLEY, MASS., WILL CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INQUIRY AT WELLSLEY COLLEGE REGARDING APPOINTEE'S EDUCATION AND CHECK AVAILABLE CREDIT AND CRIMINAL RECORDS.

END

OKG  
MAR 19 1969  
FBI WASH DC

cc destroyed  
via 1/24/69

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

K



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>12/24/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/23/68 - 12/24/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>ROBERT R. BREWER</b>	TYPED BY <b>SaO</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>SPI</b>	

REFERENCE

Bureau teletype to Washington Field, et al, 12/23/68.

- RUC -

- A\* -  
COVER PAGE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> COPIES MADE						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
① - Bureau 1 - Minneapolis (161-472)						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
						161-5792-8	
						NOT RECORDED	
						14 DEC 30 1968	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency						<i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

MAR 13 1969



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: ROBERT R. BREWER  
Date: December 24, 1968

Office: Minneapolis

Field Office File #: 161-472

Bureau File #:

Title: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr.

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis: Appointee attended Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, during normal school year from fall of 1940 until June, 1943, when he entered U. S. Navy. In U. S. Navy appointee attended St. Mary's College, Winona, Minnesota, in summer and fall of 1943. Grades earned while in U. S. Navy applied toward appointee's Bachelor of Arts degree at Carleton College. Appointee received B. A. degree from Carleton College on May 29, 1944. Credit and identification checks negative.

- RUC -

Details: AT NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTAEDUCATION

On December 23, 1968, Mrs. RUTH WEIDENHOFER, Secretary, Carleton College Registrar's Office, advised after reviewing her records that MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr., born September 1, 1922, at Omaha, Nebraska, whose permanent address is listed as 208 Cherry Street, Marshfield, Wisconsin, entered Carleton College on September 17, 1940, and attended this college during the normal school year until June 14, 1943. While here he completed his studies through and including his Junior year. She continued that on June 14, 1943, he entered the United States Navy and while in the Navy attended St. Mary's College at Winona, Minnesota, from July through October, 1943, exact dates not listed. At St. Mary's College he earned 18 semester hours of credit and later on attended the Naval Supply Corp school, Wellsley, Massachusetts, Wellsley Unit. She continued that the appointee was commissioned an Ensign in the United

MP 161-472

States Navy but the date was not recorded.

Mrs. WEIDENHOFER continued that the credits which he earned while in the U. S. Navy were applied toward the total number of credits earned and therefore on May 29, 1944, he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree by Carleton College in the field of economics.

Mrs. WEIDENHOFER stated that these records contain no information of an unfavorable nature. She added that the appointee resided on campus while attending Carleton College and also stated that there is no one presently connected with this institution who could possibly recall him.

AT WINONA, MINNESOTA

EDUCATION

On December 24, 1968, Brother LEO J. NORTHAM, Registrar, St. Mary's College, advised after reviewing his records that the appointee attended St. Mary's College under the U. S. Navy college training program commonly referred to as "V-12." He advised that the appointee entered St. Mary's College on July 1, 1943, and successfully completed the naval training program in October, 1943, exact date unrecorded. He stated that the appointee was an excellent student while at St. Mary's College and the 18 semester hours of credit which he earned while here were transferred to Carleton College at Northfield, Minnesota, to apply to his degree inasmuch as he had attended Carleton College prior to entering the Navy.

Brother LEO J. NORTHAM advised that his records contain no information of an unfavorable nature concerning the appointee and there is no one presently connected with this institution who could possibly recall him.

AT NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

CREDIT AND IDENTIFICATION

On December 23, 1968, Chief of Police ROBERT SLETTEN, Northfield Police Department, advised that his records contain no information identifiable with the appointee.

MP 161-472

AT FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA

On December 23, 1968, Deputy Sheriff HENRY SANDERS, Rice County Sheriff's Office, advised that the records of his department contain no information identifiable with the appointee.

On December 23, 1968, Mrs. IRENE HAND, Clerk, Rice County Credit Bureau, advised that her records contain no information identifiable with the appointee.

AT WINONA, MINNESOTA

On December 24, 1968, Miss MARGUERITE TRUDOEHL, Secretary, Winona Police Department, advised that the records of the Winona Police Department contain no information identifiable with the appointee.

On December 24, 1968, Deputy Sheriff LAMAR FORT, Winona County Sheriff's Office, advised that the records of this department contain no information identifiable with the appointee.

On December 24, 1968, Miss MARSHA BRANDHORST, Clerk, Winona Credit Bureau, advised that her records contain no information identifiable with the appointee.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>12/24/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/23 - 12/24/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>CHARLES A. SULLIVAN</b>	TYPED BY <b>grj</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPI</b>	

REFERENCE: Bureau teletype to Washington Field, 12/23/68.

- RUC -

- A\* -  
COVER PAGE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
APPROVED <i>WHL</i> COPIES MADE:						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
1 - Bureau (AIR MAIL) 1 - Los Angeles (161-1348)						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
						161-5792-9	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations <i>E. J. M.</i>	
Agency							
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
By							



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: CHARLES A. SULLIVAN  
Date: December 24, 1968

Office: Los Angeles, California

Field Office File #: 161-1348

Bureau File #:

Title: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

## Synopsis:

No unfavorable credit information and no identifiable arrest record located concerning appointee's relatives at San Gabriel, California; residence verified.

- RUC -

DETAILS:CREDIT AND ARREST

The appointee [redacted] reportedly resided at [redacted]

The files of the Alhambra Credit Bureau, Alhambra, California, which agency covers San Gabriel, California, as caused to be checked by SA RICHARD K. SCHWAB on December 24, 1968, revealed [redacted]

[redacted] have been known to this agency since October, 1958. His employment was shown [redacted]

[redacted] No unfavorable information was contained in their file and their credit rating was satisfactory.

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LA 161-1348

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On December 24, 1968, the files of the following agencies as caused to be checked contained no record identifiable with [REDACTED]

Retail Merchants Credit Association  
Los Angeles, California  
Checked by IC BERNARD P. BLAIS

San Gabriel Police Department  
San Gabriel, California  
Checked by SA SCHWAB

Los Angeles Police Department and  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office  
Los Angeles, California  
Checked by IC MILLARD T. ANDERSON

MISCELLANEOUS

On December 24, 1968, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised SA SCHWAB that she has known [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] who reside at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] as friends and neighbors for approximately  
ten years. She said that [REDACTED] who is a [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MELVIN  
LAIRD, who has recently been named as Secretary of  
Defense by President elect RICHARD NIXON. She stated  
that [REDACTED] are very fine neighbors,  
who are considerate, trustworthy, and stable. She  
said they are loyal American citizens of excellent  
character, associates, and reputation and she knows  
of nothing unfavorable concerning them or any member  
of their family.

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12/26/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SACS, NORFOLK  
PHILADELPHIA  
DETROIT  
CHARLOTTE

FROM: SAC, WFO (161-5232)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPI, BUDED DECEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN,  
NEXT, WITHOUT FAIL.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO WFO DECEMBER TWENTY-THREE, LAST, NO  
COPY NORFOLK, PHILADELPHIA, DETROIT AND CHARLOTTE.

NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS REQUESTED EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION  
OF LAIRD WHO HAS BEEN NAMED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BY PRESIDENT-  
ELECT. BORN SEPTEMBER ONE, ONE NINE TWO TWO, OMAHA, NEBRASKA.  
RESIDES MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN, AND HAS TEMPORARY RESIDENCE IN  
WASHINGTON, D. C. HE HAS BEEN MEMBER, U. S. HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES FROM WISCONSIN SINCE JANUARY, NINETEEN FIFTY-  
THREE. SEE WFO'S WHO FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND DATA.

- 1 - Teletype Unit
- 1 - Bureau
- 2 - WFO

MEL:arw  
(4)

DEC 27 1968

161-5232-10  
INDEXED  
133  
9/5

WFO 161-5232

PAGE TWO

U. S. SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON OF WISCONSIN WILL BE AT WILLIAMSBURG LODGE, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, THROUGH FRIDAY, DECEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN. CAN BE REACHED AREA CODE SEVEN ZERO THREE, TELEPHONE TWO TWO NINE DASH ONE SIX ZERO ZERO, OR THROUGH DON CONZALES, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, WILLIAMSBURG LODGE, AREA CODE SEVEN ZERO THREE, TELEPHONE TWO TWO NINE DASH ONE ZERO ZERO ZERO.

NORFOLK INTERVIEW.

APPOINTEE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS. OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL J. FLOOD (D) OF PENNSYLVANIA WHO CAN BE REACHED AT RESIDENCE IN WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA, AREA CODE [REDACTED] TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

PHILADELPHIA INTERVIEW.

REPRESENTATIVE ELFORD A. CEDERBERG (R) OF MICHIGAN PREFERENCES TO BE CALLED AT HIS RESIDENCE IN [REDACTED] AREA CODE [REDACTED]



WFO 161-5232

b6  
b7c

PAGE THREE

[REDACTED]

DETROIT INTERVIEW.

REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES R. JONAS (R) OF LINCOLNTON,  
NORTH CAROLINA, OFFICE AT LINCOLNTON, AREA CODE SEVEN ZERO  
FOUR TELEPHONE RE FIVE DASH SIX ONE FOUR ONE; RESIDES AT AREA

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[REDACTED]

CHARLOTTE INTERVIEW.

DUE TO URGENT NATURE OF REQUEST IT IS IMPERATIVE BUREAU  
DEADLINE BE MET. NO DELAY TOLERATED.

SUTEL BUREAU RESULTS OF INTERVIEW IN FORM SUITABLE FOR  
DISSEMINATION. BUREAU ADVISED.

SPIN.

P.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 26 1968

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC\*

FBI ST LOUIS

445PM URGENT 12/26/68 TJB

TO DIRECTOR AND WASHINGTON FIELD

FROM ST. LOUIS 161-NPRC-C

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR. SPI, BUDED: DEC. TWENTYSEVEN NEXT  
WITHOUT FAIL.

MR. CLEVELAND  
ROOM 1246

REBUTEL, DEC. TWENTYTHREE LAST.

ON DEC. TWENTYSIX INSTANT, PERSONNEL, NPRC (CPR), SLMP,  
ADVISED UNABLE TO LOCATE RECORD OF FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT, PAST  
OR PRESENT, FOR LAIRD.

IN VIEW OF NEGATIVE INFORMATION, NO REPORT BEING SUBMITTED  
BU ST. LOUIS, UACB.

RUC

END

CKG

FBI WASH DC\*

161-5792-11

RECORDED

21 JAN 30 1969

MAR 13 1969  
TELETYPE TO

WFO

1 cc destroyed  
via Hunk

*[Handwritten signature]*

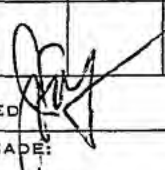
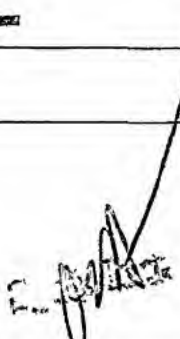
## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK	OFFICE OF ORIGIN BUREAU	DATE 12/26/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 12/23-26/68
TITLE OF CASE MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr.		REPORT MADE BY JOHN G. FLEMING	TYPED BY lmg
		CHARACTER OF CASE SPI	

REFERENCE:

Bureau teletype to WFO, dated 12/23/68.

-RUC-

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED 						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
①-Bureau 1-New York (161-2698)						161-577-12 NOT RECORDED 12 DEC 27 1968		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency								
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: JOHN G. FLEMING  
Date: 12/26/68

Office: New York, New York

Field Office File #: 161-2698

Bureau File #:

Title: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr.

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis: Personal assoicate recommends.

-RUC-



NY 161-2698

DETAILS:

Personal Associate

On December 24, 1968, Mr. STEVEN B. DEROUNIAN, 600 Old Country Road, Garden City, New York, advised that he has known the appointee since January, 1953, when both entered the Congress and they continue to be very close friends. He added that the appointee's wife and Mrs. DEROUNIAN are also very close and he stated that if he had to invest in a man who would be the most trusted, patriotic, conscientious and "not softheaded", he would pick a man such as the appointee. He stated that there is nothing to his knowledge that would be derogatory concerning the appointee or his family, adding that his only fault is that he "works too hard".

Mr. DEROUNIAN advised that he and the appointee are members of the "Chowder and Marching Group", which is a group of Republicans, one of whose members is the President-Elect.

Mr. DEROUNIAN advised that he would give the appointee the highest recommendation for a position of trust and confidence in the Government.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MILWAUKEE</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>12/26/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/23 - 26/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA ROLAND A. BALDWIN</b>	TYPED BY <b>els</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>	

REFERENCES

Bureau teletype dated 12/23/68 and  
Bureau Airtel dated 12/23/68.

- RUC -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> COPIES MADE: 1-Bureau (Air Mail) 1-Milwaukee (161-459)						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
						161-5772-13	
						NOT RECORDED 1 DEC 28 1968	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency						- A - <i>[Signature]</i>	
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By	MAR 13 1969						

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ADMINISTRATIVE

It is noted for the information of the Bureau that interview with FRANK EDWARD PANZER, associate of MELVIN R. LAIRD, was conducted in Room 239, Geriatrics Ward, Beaver Dam Lutheran Hospital, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, 12/26/68. Prior to this interview Miss J. O'CONNELL, Attendant Ward Nurse, advised that Mr. PANZER had previously suffered a stroke and as a result of this malady was confined permanently to a wheelchair. She advised that Mr. PANZER had been under constant hospital care for his stroke and for generalized diabetes since 3/7/68. She further advised that PANZER experienced occasional attacks of unpredictable outbursts. She stated at the time that the interview was requested that Mr. PANZER currently appeared to be receptive to interview and, on the basis of this, contact was made with Mr. PANZER as indicated herein.

On 12/26/68, attempts to contact Senator CHESTER E. DEMPSEY at his residence, [REDACTED] reflected that Senator DEMPSEY was currently suffering from an undescribed communicable disease and was, at the time of contact at his residence, undergoing doctor's care and treatment. At this time [REDACTED], Senator CHESTER E. DEMPSEY, requested that re-contact be made by telephone later in the afternoon. Contact was made as requested with [REDACTED] and appropriate questions were relayed [REDACTED] Mr. DEMPSEY who was, at that time, still confined to his sick bed, making direct telephonic contact with Senator DEMPSEY impossible. It is noted for the Bureau that results of this interview are being reported after contact with [REDACTED] and subsequent relay of questions to Mr. DEMPSEY. Although the mechanics of such an interview are recognized as not the most desirable, the conditions requiring Senator DEMPSEY's bed rest necessarily restricted the conditions of this telephonic interview, the details of which are set out herein.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA ROLAND A. BALDWIN  
Date: December 26, 1968

Office: Milwaukee

Field Office File #: MI 161-459

Bureau File #:

Title: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis: Appointee's residence in Marshfield, Wisconsin, verified. Reference recommends appointee highly. Credit and arrest checks negative for appointee and close relatives. Former associates in Wisconsin State Senate recommend appointee without reservation. Appointee's employments at Laona, Wisconsin, verified and former employer and associate recommend appointee.

- RUC -

DETAILS:



MI 161-459

RAB/ds

- 1 -

EDUCATION

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA JOHN W. SCHALLER.

At Eau Claire, Wisconsin

On December 26, 1968, MARGARET MADSON, Student  
Personnel Office of Wisconsin State University, Eau  
Claire, advised that [ ] is currently

b6  
b7c

[ ] Her records reflect that [ ] is currently  
residing at [ ]

No further information concerning [ ] was available  
in her records.

MI 161-459

HLG/bkc

1

EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent NORMAN L. GRISWOLD:

AT LAONA (FOREST COUNTY), WISCONSIN

On December 24, 1968, THOMAS L. RASMUSSEN, Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors, Connor Forest Industries (formerly Connor Lumber and Land Company), Laona, was contacted at his firm.

RASMUSSEN stated MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr., was formerly associated with Connor as he served as a Corporate Officer in two of Connor's wholly-owned subsidiaries, Laona-Northern Railroad Company, a short-line common carrier; and Connor Builders Supply Company. RASMUSSEN stated his records did not specifically identify LAIRD as Secretary-Treasurer of the Laona-Northern Railroad, but he assumed he was as he was a Corporate Officer. RASMUSSEN stated LAIRD was Secretary of the Connor Builders Supply Company.

RASMUSSEN stated company records indicated LAIRD began employment with the firm June 18, 1946, and voluntarily resigned his respective positions at a board meeting, August 15, 1952, at which time he was elected to the United States Congress. The above dates covered employment at both companies.

RASMUSSEN stated LAIRD, while employed from 1946 to 1952, had his office in the firm's general offices which during that period were located at Marshfield, Wisconsin. He said the general office was later moved to Wausau, Wisconsin, because of various company acquisitions made by Connor.

RASMUSSEN, who advised he had been employed at Connor for 46 years, stated he had personally known "Congressman Mel Laird for many years as a friend and co-worker during the period 1946 to 1952." He said the friendship and close acquaintance had been retained from the time LAIRD left the firm to the present. He said he was also acquainted with LAIRD's wife, BARBARA.

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RASMUSSEN said LAIRD's work record while employed at Connor was "top grade." He said LAIRD always utilized his outstanding intellectual ability to perform his assigned tasks while an employee. He said LAIRD also distinguished himself as a Wisconsin State Legislator and United States Congressman.

RASMUSSEN concluded by saying that LAIRD was a person of integrity who possessed an excellent character. He said LAIRD, as an individual, possessed an excellent reputation among his friends, associates and constituents in the Seventh District of Wisconsin. He also stated LAIRD is known to be a loyal American citizen.

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AJT/bkc

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ALLAN JAMES THOMPSON:

AT WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

On December 26, 1968, GORDON R. CONNOR, President, Connor Forest Products, Wausau, Wisconsin, advised that the appointee worked for the then Connor Lumber and Land Company from June, 1946, to August, 1952. He held title of Assistant Secretary. He did not work at Wausau, Wisconsin, but was under the direction of the registered home office in Laona, Wisconsin. He does not now hold any position in either company. He was a very capable, energetic and hard worker. His character, morals, integrity and background were above reproach. He would recommend the appointee for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.

Mr. Connor advised that Laird was Secretary of the Leona-Northern Railroad and Connor Builders Supply Company, both subsidiaries of the Connor Lumber and Land Company. This concern had offices in Leona, Wisconsin, but the general offices were in Marshfield, Wisc. Mr. Connor stated that at the time of Laird's employment, he, Connor, was Executive Vice President of Connor Lumber and Land Company. It was the custom of this company to have the Assistant Secretary which was Mr. Laird to be the Secretary of the two subsidiary companies.



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RAB/ds

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EMPLOYMENT

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA HENRY W. CURRAN.

At Madison, Wisconsin

On December 26, 1968, the State of Wisconsin 1968 Blue Book, compiled by Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, State Office Building, Madison, the official register of State Legislators in Wisconsin, reflected the following record for the appointee, MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR:

Elected to the State Senate in 1946

Re-elected without opposition to the State Senate  
in 1948

Elected to the United States Congress in 1952  
from the Seventh Congressional District and re-  
elected on each subsequent term, to date

During his tenure in the Wisconsin State Senate,  
the appointee served in the following positions:

| Wisconsin Committee on Improvement of Educational  
System, 1947 - 1949

| Legislative Council, 1949 - 1953

Chairman of Legislative Council, 1951 - 1953

Chairman of Taxation Committee, 1949 - 1951

Member of Joint Finance Committee, 1949 - 1952

Member of Veterans and Military Affairs Committee,  
1947 - 1952

Chairman of Veterans Military Affairs Committee,  
1949 - 1952

REFERENCES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ALLAN JAMES THOMPSON:

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b7C

At Marshfield, Wisconsin

EDWARD HELLER, Editor, "Marshfield News Herald," advised on December 24, 1968, that he has known the appointee and his family for many years. The appointee's mother, Mrs. HELEN C. LAIRD, presently resides in the City of Marshfield at 208 South Cherry Street. The appointee maintains a residence at 313 A East Third Street, but resides with his wife, BARBARA, [redacted] in Washington, D. C. The appointee's [redacted] Wisconsin State University at Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The appointee is a person of high moral character, a very loyal American, and a person with an excellent reputation in the community. He knows of nothing in the appointee's background or in any member of the appointee's family's background which would reflect unfavorably upon them. He also believes the appointee has the highest integrity. The appointee's background in the Federal Government and State Government is in the field of finance and defense, which would qualify him for any position of responsibility in the Government. He would not hesitate to recommend the appointee for a position of trust and confidence.

On December 24, 1968, WALTER WOLFHARDT, Chief of Police, Marshfield, advised that he has known the appointee and his family for the past 22 years. The appointee has an excellent reputation in the community. His integrity and loyalty are beyond question. He knows of nothing in the appointee's background or in any member of the appointee's family's background that would reflect unfavorably upon them. The appointee has done an outstanding job as a Congressman for the Seventh District, and he has the ability to perform any task assigned to him in the Government. Mr. WOLFHARDT recommends the appointee for a position of trust and confidence in the Federal Government.

On December 24, 1968, VIRGIL TAYLOR, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, advised that he has known the appointee and his family for the past three years. The entire LAIRD family, including his mother, Mrs. HELEN C. LAIRD, is very active in the Church. The appointee is an ordained elder of the Church. He has never heard, during the time he has known the appointee, any derogatory comments concerning him or his family. The entire family is well known and is respected in the community. The appointee has unquestionable, high moral standards, character, integrity, and loyalty. He definitely recommends the appointee for a position of trust and confidence in the Government and states appointee has the ability to perform any task assigned to him.

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On December 24, 1968, BENJAMIN WING, [redacted] advised that he has known the appointee and his family for the past 30 years. The appointee is an honest, hardworking, loyal American. He has done an excellent job as a Congressman from the Seventh District. He has never heard any derogatory comments regarding the appointee or his family, either from Democrats or anyone else in the Seventh District. Mr. WING believes the appointee has the ability to perform any task assigned to him. He does not hesitate to recommend the appointee for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.

On December 26, 1968, DINA HAYDEN, Postmistress, Marshfield, advised that she has known the appointee and his family since 1954. They all are hardworking, loyal Americans. The appointee is a person of unquestionable character, morals, and integrity. He is very well respected in the Marshfield community as well as in the Seventh District. She knows of nothing in the appointee's background or in the appointee's family's background that would reflect unfavorably upon them. She believes the appointee has the ability to perform any task assigned to him. She recommends him for a position of trust and confidence with the Federal Government.

On December 26, 1968, WILLIAM A. UTHNEIER, Manager, Chamber of Commerce of Marshfield, advised that he has known the appointee and his family since the early 1900's. The appointee comes from a family who is well respected in the community. The appointee is of unquestionable moral

character and integrity. He has never had any reason to doubt the appointee's loyalty. The appointee has undoubtedly the ability to do any task that is assigned to him. He has never heard at any time any derogatory comments concerning the appointee or any member of his family. He recommends the appointee for the highest position in the United States Government.

On December 26, 1968, JOHN L. STAUBER, President, Citizen's National Bank, Marshfield, has known the appointee and his family for the past 40 years. His bank thinks so highly of the Congressman from the Seventh District that they ran an ad in the "Marshfield News Herald" congratulating the Congressman on his appointment. The ad read, in part, "Yes, the entire state of Wisconsin, regardless of political belief, can be proud that a 'native son' will be helping to guide the nation in the difficult days ahead. We at the Citizen's National Bank take great pride in congratulating Laird on his appointment. We know he will use his many abilities to advantage for the entire country...and the country will be better for it." STAUBER said he cannot say enough about the appointee. He has unquestionable morals, character, and integrity. He is a very loyal American. Because of his long background in government circles, he would undoubtedly be able to handle any assignment given to him. In all the years he has known the appointee and his family, he has never heard any derogatory comments made about them. He recommends the appointee for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.



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HWC/ds

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ASSOCIATES

At Madison, Wisconsin

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA HENRY W. CURRAN.

WARREN P. KNOWLES, Governor, State of Wisconsin, Executive Mansion, advised Special Agent CURRAN on December 24, 1968, that he has been acquainted with and worked with appointee, MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., since his election into the Wisconsin State Senate in 1946. LAIRD has always been found to be an individual of high integrity in his business, social, and family life. KNOWLES considers LAIRD to have been one of the outstanding persons representing the State of Wisconsin in the Congressional Group, having a high ability in the field of Health, Education, and Welfare. KNOWLES always has found good counsel with LAIRD on all problems of Government and recognized LAIRD'S ability as an individual who is able to pick a problem apart and get down to the meat of the situation.

LAIRD gained immediate respect for his maturity and manner of handling situations from all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature when he began his political career. KNOWLES believes that LAIRD will serve as an excellent Secretary of Defense. He knows LAIRD to be an individual of unquestioned loyalty to the United States. LAIRD has always been found to be an individual of high moral principles and integrity in his private, social, and political life.

KNOWLES stated he would highly recommend LAIRD.

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RAB/ds

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ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROLAND A. BALDWIN.

At Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On December 24, 1968, United States District Judge ROBERT E. TEHAN, 2545 North Wahl Avenue, furnished the following information concerning his association with the appointee in the Wisconsin State Senate.

Judge TEHAN was elected to the State Senate in 1949. He worked in the Senate from January of 1949 until May of the same year, at which time he was appointed United States District Judge at Milwaukee and resigned from the State Senate. During this short period of time, he became well acquainted with the appointee and worked with him quite closely on various occasions. Judge TEHAN commented he had known appointee's father previously and had been closely associated with him as well. He first became acquainted with the appointee in the State Senate and has only a speaking association with him now whenever they chance to meet. During the time they spent together in the State Senate, they had no social associations, but Judge TEHAN noted he had never heard of the appointee's being anything but an exceptional individual with high character and ideals. The appointee always appeared to be very studious and hard working. The appointee appeared to have high political aspirations and was working diligently toward these ends.

Judge TEHAN stated further that he had only the highest regard for the appointee's loyalty, character, and associates. He felt he could recommend Mr. LAIRD without reservation.

On December 26, 1968, United States Commissioner JOHN C. MC BRIDE, 3467 North Summit, provided the following regarding his association with the appointee in the Wisconsin State Senate.

Mr. MC BRIDE stated he had served in the State Senate with the appointee after the appointee replaced his father who had died in 1946. Their association was primarily during the years 1947 through 1948. Since this time, Mr. MC BRIDE has had no contact with the appointee, and during that time his association had been only professional.

The appointee enjoyed an excellent reputation among his colleagues, and he associated only with fine upstanding individuals.

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Mr. MC BRIDE recalled that one of the appointee's closest associations was with Governor KNOWLES. He associated primarily with other Republican Senators who were in the Senate at that time.

Mr. MC BRIDE indicated that the appointee seemed to be of the highest character and was of unquestionable loyalty. The appointee was a diligent worker and was very capable as a State Senator.

MC BRIDE stated he could recommend appointee without reservation based on his brief association in 1947 and 1948.

MC BRIDE added that he had served previously with appointee's father for whom he also had only the highest regard.

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent FRIEND ADAMS.

At Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

On December 26, 1968, Mr. FRANK EDWARD PANZER, Room 239, Geriatrics Ward, Beaver Dam Lutheran Hospital, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, advised the following information. He was a former associate of MELVIN LAIRD when he and LAIRD were members of the Wisconsin State Senate and as members of the Wisconsin State Republican Party. In this connection he was acquainted with Mr. LAIRD and his immediate family. He considered all of these individuals to be of excellent character and he knew each member of the family to be of unquestioned reputation and to be reputable, law-abiding citizens. In addition, he stated that Mr. LAIRD made it a habit of associating with individuals who were of the highest caliber and who generally were outstanding in their field of endeavor. He advised that based on his past knowledge of Mr. LAIRD and his friends, family and associates, that he felt a high degree of admiration for MELVIN LAIRD and accordingly recommended him highly for a position of trust, confidence and sensitivity in the higher levels of the United States Government.

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At Hartland, Wisconsin

On December 26, 1968, CHESTER E. DEMPSEY, Senator, Wisconsin State Legislature, [redacted] advised the following information. He has been a member of the Wisconsin State Legislature for approximately 24 years. During his term of office he has had occasion to become personally acquainted with MELVIN LAIRD. His last personal association with Mr. LAIRD was approximately 15 years ago in his official capacity with the State Legislature. He advised that he is unacquainted with Mr. LAIRD's immediate family. He advised that based on his past knowledge of Mr. LAIRD he considers LAIRD's character and reputation to be of a highly qualified professional nature and absolutely beyond reproach as a law maker, citizen and public servant. He knew of no information whatsoever which could be regarded as derogatory in any manner regarding Mr. LAIRD's private or public life. He felt that the selection of Mr. LAIRD for a position of trust, confidence, sensitivity and advisor to the President of the



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United States in matters of national defense and security was an excellent choice and he heartily endorsed Mr. LAIRD in this position with his highest recommendation.

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HWC/els

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CREDIT

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent HENRY W. CURRAN.

At Madison, Wisconsin

On December 24, 1968, BETTY JAY, Credit Bureau  
of Madison Incorporated, advised Special Agent CURRAN she  
could locate no record identifiable with MELVIN R. LAIRD, JR. b6 b7C

JAY advised that she does have a file on RICHARD  
M. LAIRD and [redacted], residing at [redacted]  
[redacted] who is a deceased brother of appointee, who died as a  
result of an automobile accident in December, 1967, at  
Madison. The file disclosed favorable credit record.

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HWC/ds

- 1 -

ARREST

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA HENRY W. CURRAN.

At Madison, Wisconsin

On December 24, 1968, the following individuals  
advised that they could locate no record identifiable with  
either MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., or RICHARD M. LAIRD:

ALICE MAIDEN, Records, Madison Police Department

JOYCE TELLEFSON, Records Section, Dane County  
Sheriff's Office

MI 161-459

RAB/ds

- 1 -

ARREST

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA JOHN W. SCHALLER.

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b7C

At Eau Claire, Wisconsin

On December 26, 1968, Mr. WILLIAM CASEY, Northwestern Credit Bureau of Eau Claire Incorporated, advised that [ ] has been on record since August of 1968, and shows a residence of [ ]. His records also reflect that [ ] formerly resided in [ ]. The file indicates that no credit rating has been assigned to [ ] and no inquiries have been made.

Mr. ARVIN ZIEHLSDORFF, Chief of Police, Eau Claire, advised on this date his files show no record for [ ]  
[ ]



MI 161-459

AJT/bkc

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CREDIT AND ARREST

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ALLAN JAMES THOMPSON:

AT MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

GERMAINE BROWE, Credit Bureau, Marshfield, advised on December 24, 1968, that MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr. has been in their files since 1954. His latest credit check was conducted in 1962. He is an excellent credit risk. BROWE could not find any credit file for his mother, Mrs. HELEN C. LAIRD, or the appointee's children.

On December 24, 1968, MARION JAHR, Marshfield Police Department, advised that she could find no record identifiable with the appointee or any member of his family.

AT WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN

On December 24, 1968, DONALD KAYLOR, Wood County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, advised he could find no identifiable record for the appointee or any member of his family.

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NLG/ds

- 1 -

CREDIT AND ARREST

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA NORMAN L. GRISWOLD.

At Crandon, (Forest County), Wisconsin

On December 24, 1968, Sheriff PAUL F. ASCHINGER, Forest County Sheriff's Office, Crandon, which has law enforcement responsibility for Laona, Wisconsin, advised after checking arrest records, both criminal and traffic, that no arrest record could be located for MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

There is no credit bureau or credit reporting agency located in Laona, Crandon, or Forest County, Wisconsin.

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AJT/ds

- 1 -

MISCELLANEOUS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ALLEN JAMES THOMPSON.

At Marshfield, Wisconsin

On December 24, 1968, the newspaper, morgue, of the Marshfield News Herald, was searched. The file contained no derogatory information concerning appointee or any member of his family.

The following background information was extracted from this file:

MELVIN R. LAIRD, Sr., father, was born on a farm at Griggsville, Illinois, in 1888, attending a rural school and graduating from Griggsville High School. He received his BA Degree from Illinois College at Jacksonville. For a time, he taught in rural school in Pike County, Illinois, and was Principal of Barry High School. He received his MA Degree at Princeton Divinity School and was a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin and Chicago. His Doctor of Divinity Degree was conferred by JAMES MILLIKAN, University in Decatur, Illinois. LAIRD entered upon his ministerial career at the Presbyterian Church in Prairie Du Sac, Wisconsin, in 1907. In 1911, he went to Marshfield, Wisconsin, where he became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. On April 16, 1913, he married HELEN CONNOR, a member of a widely known lumbering and manufacturing family. Her father, WILLIAM D. CONNOR, was a former Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin in 1912, Mrs. LAIRD for many years was Secretary of the Connor Lumber and Land Company, being succeeded by her son, MELVIN, in August, 1952. Also in 1913, the family moved to Lincoln, Illinois, where LAIRD, Sr., accepted a Pastorate. Later, he became President of Lincoln College, a Presbyterian Institution.

The young pastor and college president volunteered for service with the 335th Regiment and spent a year in France as its chaplain during World War I. After the war, LAIRD became pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Omaha, where the appointee was born on September 1, 1922, the third of four sons. In 1925, the Reverend Mr. LAIRD gave up his ministerial post in Omaha to return with his family in Marshfield and enter the lumber business with his father-in-law.

He was elected to the Wisconsin Upper House from the Twenty-Fourth District in 1941 and served until his death on March 18, 1946. The appointee's mother still resides in Marshfield at 208 South Cherry Avenue.

#### Brothers

Two of three brothers were killed: One in the Pacific during World War II, and one in a highway accident at Madison, Wisconsin. His eldest brother, ENSIGN CONNOR LAIRD, was 29 when his Navy Mine Sweeper capsized in heavy seas off Coos Bay on February 20, 1943. Brother RICHARD M. LAIRD was a Madison lumber dealer at the time of his death, November 8, 1967, at the age of 52.

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[redacted] Los Angeles State College.

Captioned appointee, MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr. attended public school and junior high school in Marshfield, graduating from Marshfield Senior High in 1940.

He entered Carleton College at Northfield, Minnesota, where he majored in Political Science and Economics and received his BA Degree in 1944, although he was already in the military service then.

In 1942 he entered the United States Navy. LAIRD served for 17 months aboard the Destroyer Maddox which was employed in Pacific duty. He was wounded during an attack on the Maddox in January, 1945.



He was on active duty in the Navy for more than three years and a month before his discharge, he announced his candidacy for the Twenty-fourth District State Senatorship left vacant by the death of his father. He was elected in 1946 and later re-elected in the full four-year term two years later.

He served on the Senate Labor and Management Committee, the Veterans Affairs Committee, the Joint Committee to reorganize the Department of Taxation, and the State Educational Commission during his first term. He later served on the Joint Finance Committee and Joint Legislative Council.

In 1952, at the age of 30, he was elected to Congress from the Seventh Congressional District. As a United States Congressman, he served on the House Appropriations Committee. He is the ranking minority member of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Labor, Health, Education, and Welfare, and he is a high ranking member of the Defense Sub-Committee.

LAIRD is the recipient of numerous awards, citations, and honorary degrees. Among them are the coveted 15th Annual Albert Lasker Medical Research Award, and the distinguished Service Award of the American Political Science Association. In making the latter award, the association cited LAIRD as a "forthright and persistent advocate whose intellectual courage and ability and consistently enlightened and enlivened public discussion of the important issues facing the nation."

An author and editor in addition to many other activities, LAIRD has authored a "House Divided America's Strategy Gap," "Republican Papers" and edited the "Conservative Papers."

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A strong family man, LAIRD married a former Carleton classmate, BARBARA MASTERS of Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15, 1945. They [redacted] both of whom reside with their parents.

MI 161-459

HWC/ds

- 1 -

MISCELLANEOUS

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA HENRY W. CURRAN.

At Madison, Wisconsin

JEAN COOPER, Librarian, Wisconsin State Journal,  
on December 24, 1968, furnished her clipping file to  
SA CURRAN on MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., for review. This  
file which covered the period from 1946 to present contained  
no information of a derogatory nature.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>BOSTON</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>12/26/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/24-26/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>DALE A. BERNDT</b>	TYPED BY <b>ma.f</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPI</b>	

REFERENCES: Bureau teletype to Boston dated 12/23/68.  
Minneapolis teletype to Boston dated 12/24/68.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Offices at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass., closed for Christmas Holiday to reopen on 1/6/69. Records regarding Naval Supply School unavailable until that time.

LEADBOSTON

AT WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS. Will obtain educational data concerning appointee at Wellesley College.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
1 - Bureau						161-5792-14	
1 - Boston (161-2028)						NOT RECORDED	
						14 DEC 30 1968	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency						<i>[Signature]</i>	
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

- A\* -  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of:

DALE A. BERNDT

Office: Boston, Massachusetts

Date:

12/26/68

Field Office File #:

161-2028

Bureau File #:

Title:

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr.

Character:

SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis:

Associate of appointee recommended him for position of trust with Federal Government. Credit and arrest checks, Wellesly, Massachusetts, set out.

- P -



ASSOCIATES

On December 24, 1968, ROBERT F. FROEHLKE, Resident [redacted] advised he has known MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr. since about 1930. He and LAIRD grew up together in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and attended high school together. While FROEHLKE attended college, his family and LAIRD's family lived side by side in a two family dwelling in Wisconsin. FROEHLKE served as campaign manager for LAIRD during the Congressional races in Wisconsin from November, 1952, to November, 1966.

FROEHLKE considered LAIRD to be of the highest moral character, one whom he would "trust with all my money, family and business dealings." LAIRD maintains a caliber of associates above reproach and his loyalty to the United States is unquestioned. FROEHLKE stated LAIRD's reputation is excellent, both socially and in the field of business. FROEHLKE unhesitatingly recommended LAIRD for a position of trust with the United States Government.

CREDIT

On December 26, 1968, Special Agent DALE A. BERNDT caused the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater Boston, Boston, Massachusetts, to be reviewed regarding MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, Jr. but no record was located.

ARREST

On December 26, 1968, the records of the Massachusetts Board of Probation, a central repository for criminal convictions in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the records of the Wellesley, Massachusetts Police Department were reviewed regarding the appointee with negative results.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATION SECTION

DEC 27 1968 *lec*

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

200200PM URGENT 12/27/68

TO DIRECTOR

FROM NORFOLK (161-290)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR. SPECIAL INQUIRY. BUDED - DEC TWENTYSEVEN  
INSTANT.

MR. CLEVELAND  
ROOM 1246  
*Handwritten signature*

RE WFO TEL TO NORFOLK, DEC, TWENTYSIX LAST.

THE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED BY SA GENTRY H. LOWE  
JR., AT WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

US SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON, STATE OF WISCONSIN, THIS DATE ADVISED  
HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD FOR TWENTY YEARS, HAVING SERVED WITH HIM IN THE  
WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE FROM NINETEEN FORTYNINE TO FIFTYONE AND  
FOR SEVERAL YEARS THEREAFTER. HE STATED LAIRD WAS A REPUBLICAN  
MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE WHILE HE (NELSON) WAS A DEMOCRATIC MEMBER  
OF THE LEGISLATURE. *K*

NELSON STATED HE AND LAIRD BECAME PERSONAL FRIENDS, AND HE HAS  
KNOWN HIM SOCIALLY AS WELL AS POLITICALLY SINCE THE TIME THEY FIRST  
MET.

HE ADVISED LAIRD IS A VERY ABLE, HIGHLY DEDICATED, VERY  
RESPONSIBLE MAN WITH NO BAD HABITS SUCH AS DRINKING. HE IS A  
RESPONSIBLE, PATRIOTIC INDIVIDUAL ABOUT WHOM HE HAS RECEIVED NO  
INFORMATION WHICH WOULD REFLECT UNFAVORABLY ON HIS MORALS, CHARACTER,  
OR INTEGRITY. *161-5792-15*

END

PGH  
MAR 1 3 1969  
FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATION SECTION

DEC 27 1968

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC\*

FBI CHARLT

116 PM URGENT 12-27-68 RUH  
TO BUREAU AND WFO (161-5232)  
FROM CHARLOTTE (161-637) 2P

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MR. CLEVELAND  
ROOM 1246

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPI, BUDED DECEMBER TWENTY-  
SEVEN,, NEXT, WITHOUT FAIL.

REWFO TELETYPE DECEMBER TWENTY SIX, LAST.

REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES R. JONAS (R), LINCOLNTON,  
N.C., ADVISED DECEMBER TWENTY SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT  
THAT HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD SINCE NINETEEN FIFTY THREE WHEN BOTH  
HE AND LAIRD SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPRO-  
PRIATIONS AND THAT EXCEPT FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD BOTH HE AND LAIRD  
HAVE SERVED CONTINUOUSLY ON THIS COMMITTEE. MR. JONAS ADVISED  
HE WOULD RECCOMEND LAIRD VERY HIGHLY FOR THE POSITION OF  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OR FOR ANY POSITION IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.  
HE BELIEVES LAIRD IS  
END PAGE ONE

TELETYPE TO:  
WFO  
MAR 1 1969

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by [unclear]

161-5792-16

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PAGE TWO

CE 161-637

HIGHLY QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF  
DEFENSE. HE CONSIDERS HIM EXTREMELY LOYAL TO UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT.

MR. JONAS STATED HE KNOWS OF NOTHING DEROGATORY IN EITHER  
MR. LAIRD'S BACKGROUND OR IN THE BACKGROUND OF ANY MEMBER OF  
HIS FAMILY.

REPORT FOLLOWS.

SPIN.

END.

PGH

FBI WASH DC\*

@

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATION SECTION

DEC 27 1968

TELETYPE

P

FBI WASH DC

FBI DETROIT

450 PM URGENT 12-27-68 SFB

TO DIRECTOR

FROM DETROIT (161-NEW) (RUC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPI

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

MR. CLEVELAND  
ROOM 1246

RE WFO TELETYPE TO DETROIT, DEC. TWENTY-SIX, LAST,  
REQUESTING INTERVIEW OF CONGRESSMAN ELFORD A. CEDARBERG AS  
FELLOW MEMBER OF APPOINTEE ON HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATION.

REPEATED UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS ON DEC. TWENTY-SEVEN,  
INSTANT TO CONTACT THE CONGRESSMAN THROUGH HIS RESIDENCE, HIS  
BAY CITY OFFICE, HIS PARENTS HOME AND HIS ADINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
HAVE BEEN MADE.

IN LIGHT OF THE BUDED ON DEC. TWENTY-SEVEN, NO FURTHER  
EFFORTS TO CONTACT ARE BEING MADE.

END

CKG

FBI WASH DC

161-5792-17

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01/01/70

MAR 1 1969



WA 2

456PM

URGENT QWAWUAYI MTS

TO DIRECTOR PLAINTEXT

FROM PHILADELPHIA (161-1272) (RUC) 1P

VIA TELETYPE

DEC 27 1968

ENCIPHERED

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.; SPI

MR. CLEVELAND  
ROOM 1246

RE WFO TELETYPE DECEMBER TWENTY-SIX LAST.

U.S. CONGRESSMAN DANIEL J. FLOOD, WILKES-BARRE, PA.,

ADVISED TODAY HE HAS SERVED FOR TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS WITH CONGRESSMAN LAIRD ON THE APPROPRIATION SUB COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND CONSIDERS HIM VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CAPABLE IN THE AREA OF DEFENSE. FLOOD HAS ALSO SERVED WITH LAIRD ON THE APPROPRIATION SUB COMMITTEE FOR LABOR, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE WHERE HE HAS ALSO DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB.

FLOOD STATED HE FULLY ENDORSES MR. NIXON'S SELECTION OF LAIRD FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND KNOWS NOTHING DEROGATORY RE HIS CHARACTER, MORALS, LOYALTY, OR ASSOCIATES.

~~E CORR FIRST LINEM ... THE GBL AFTER URGENT SHD BE THE DATE WHICH IS 12-27-68 00:9443: PLS CORRECT~~

~~END~~

PAO FBI WASH DC

161-5792-18  
NOT RECORDED

22 JAN 30 1969

50 MAR 13 1969

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

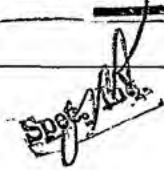
REPORTING OFFICE <b>CHARLOTTE</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>12/27/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/27/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA ALBERT P. KOEHLER</b>	TYPED BY <b>jw</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>	

REFERENCES:

WFO teletype to Charlotte dated 12/26/68.  
Charlotte teletype to Bureau and WFO, 12/27/68.

- RUC -

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COVER PAGE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
APPROVED  COPIES MADE:  ① - Bureau  1 - Charlotte (161-637)						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
						161-5792-19	
						NOT RECORDED 14 DEC 30 1968	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency							
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By	MAR 13 1969						

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA ALBERT P. KOEHLER  
Date: December 27, 1968

Office: CHARLOTTE

Field Office File #: 161-637

Bureau File #:

Title: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis: Representative CHARLES R. JONAS, Lincolnton, N. C., highly recommends Mr. LAIRD for position of Secretary of Defense. He considers Mr. LAIRD extremely loyal and highly qualified. Mr. JONAS knows of nothing derogatory in Mr. LAIRD's background.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

The following investigation was conducted by SA ALBERT P. KOEHLER at Lincolnton, North Carolina, on December 27, 1968:

Representative CHARLES R. JONAS of Lincolnton, North Carolina, advised at his office at Lincolnton, North Carolina, that he has known MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.; since 1953, when both he and Mr. LAIRD served as members of the House Committee on Appropriations. He stated that except for a two-year period both he and Mr. LAIRD have served continuously on this committee since 1953.

Mr. JONAS advised he would recommend Mr. LAIRD very highly for the position of Secretary of Defense and would recommend him for any position of loyalty in the United States Government. He advised that Mr. LAIRD is highly qualified for the position of Secretary of Defense. He advised he considers Mr. LAIRD extremely loyal to the United States Government.

CE 161-637

Mr. JONAS stated he knows of nothing derogatory in either Mr. LAIRD's background or in the background of any member of Mr. LAIRD's family.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NORFOLK</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>12/27/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/27/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA GENTRY H. LOWE, JR.</b>	TYPED BY <b>gfh</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>	

REFERENCE: WFO teletype to Norfolk, 12/26/68.

- RUC -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED <input type="checkbox"/> NONE						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
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1 - Norfolk (161-290)						NOT RECORDED 22 DEC 30 1968	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency						<i>[Signature]</i> Spec. Inq.	
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA GENTRY H. LOWE, JR. Office: Norfolk, Virginia  
Date: 12/27/68  
Field Office File #: 161-290 Bureau File #:  
Title: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis: U. S. Senator GAYLORD NELSON, State of Wisconsin, on December 27, 1968, interviewed at Williamsburg, Virginia, and stated he has been personally acquainted with appointee since 1949. He stated they served in Wisconsin State Legislature 1949 through 1951. He stated appointee is a very able, highly dedicated, responsible man about whom he has received no unfavorable information.

- RUC -

DETAILS:AT WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

U. S. Senator GAYLORD NELSON, State of Wisconsin, was interviewed on December 27, 1968, at the Williamsburg Lodge, and advised as follows:

He stated he has known MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., for about twenty years and stated that they served in the Wisconsin State Legislature from 1949 through 1951. He stated they became personal friends and have remained friends since they first met.

Senator NELSON stated he has known LAIRD socially as well as politically and commented he is a very able, highly dedicated, very responsible man with no bad habits such as drinking. He is a responsible man, who is patriotic, and he has received no unfavorable information about him which would reflect adversely on his morals, character, or integrity.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>WASHINGTON FIELD</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>BUREAU</b>	DATE <b>12/27/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/23-27/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA MARVIN E. LEWIS</b>	TYPED BY <b>lat</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>SPI</b>	

REFERENCES: Buteletype to WFO, 12/23/68;  
Buairtel to WFO, 12/23/68;  
St. Louis teletype to Bureau, 12/24/68;  
St. Louis teletype to Bureau, 12/26/68;  
WFO teletype to Norfolk, 12/26/68;  
Charlotte teletype to Bureau, 12/27/68.

- P -

ENCLOSURES: To Bureau-original and one copy of IRS report dated 12/26/68.

LEADWASHINGTON FIELDAT WASHINGTON, D. C. Passport check pending. *+ Veterans Admin*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED

COPIES MADE:

- 1 - Bureau (Encs. 2)  
1 - WFO (161-5232)

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

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NOT RECORDED

22 JAN 30 1969

## Dissemination Record of Attached Report

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By				

Notations

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA MARVIN E. LEWIS                      Office: Washington, D. C.  
Date: 12/27/68  
Field Office File #: 161-5232                      Bureau File #:  
Title: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

b3

Synopsis: Appointee has served as U. S. Representative from Wisconsin. Favorable comments and recommendations obtained from staff personnel, references, and professional associates on House Committee on Appropriations. Senator PROXMIRE recommends. Satisfactory credit record. No criminal record. Republican National Committee, HCUA,  OSD, and Secret Service negative. Prior background investigation conducted by CSC. Appointee served as Congressional Advisor on U. S. Delegations to World Health Assemblies at Geneva. Navy service record reviewed. Appointee granted access to ~~secret~~ information by NIS in connection with Global conferences. Newspaper morgues contain no unfavorable information re appointee. Info from reference sources at Library of Congress re publications set forth.

- P -

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

EMPLOYMENT

United States House of Representatives

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA RICHARD T. TAYLOR, JR., on December 26, 1968.

ZEAK W. JOHNSON, JR., Sergeant at Arms, United States House of Representatives, advised the appointee, MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., date of birth September 1, 1922, at Omaha, Nebraska, has been a Representative of the Seventh Congressional District of the State of Wisconsin, from January 3, 1953, until the present. No additional pertinent information was contained in Mr. JOHNSON's files concerning the appointee.

CARL WALLACE, Administrative Assistant to Representative LAIRD, advised he has known the appointee in a professional and social capacity since 1964, when he assumed his present duties as Administrative Assistant. His social contacts with him have included numerous visits to the appointee's residence at 5703 Kirkwood Drive, Washington, D.C. On these occasions, he had social contact also with the appointee's wife, BARBARA LAIRD, and [redacted] b6 b7C  
[redacted] He described their home life as exemplary and said the family's reputation within the community has obviously been good.

Mr. WALLACE's professional contact with the appointee has been on a continuous and close basis, both within the Representative's office and during numerous official travels made with the appointee in connection with business of the Committee on Appropriations. He described the appointee as an outstanding legislator and as a person of impeccable personal habits and high professional attainment. He had no question concerning his morals, sobriety, reputation, or associates. He considered him to be a loyal American and he recommended him for a position of trust and responsibility in the United States Government.

ELSIE B. ASHOON, Staff Assistant, advised she has been employed by the appointee for more than five years. Her

contacts with him included participating with him and his wife and children in numerous social functions sponsored by the House of Representatives. She described the appointee as a considerate gentleman whose morals, reputation, associates, and loyalty are above reproach. She characterized his home life as exemplary and advised that he and his wife and children enjoy good reputations within the community. She recommended him to a position of trust and responsibility with the United States Government.

WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR., Legislative Assistant, advised he has been in the appointee's employ since mid-1964. He described the appointee as an outstanding legislative draftsman and as a legislative technician whose judgments and opinions have been relied upon extensively by the appointee's fellow members within the Committee on Appropriations. He had no question concerning his suitability for employment in the highest positions of trust and responsibility, within the United States Government. He had no question concerning his loyalty or patriotism, nor his personal or professional ethics. He recommended him to any position of trust and responsibility within the United States Government for which he may be found to be qualified.



Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA RICHARD T. TAYLOR, JR., on December 26, 1968.

Representative FRANK T. BOW (Ohio), ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations (Committee), advised that he has been a professional associate of the appointee since 1953, when the appointee assumed his duties as a member of the Committee. He stated the appointee has served during the last four years as the third ranking member of the Committee. Representative BOW advised he has consistently sought the appointee's opinion with regard to legislative matters and has often relied upon his legislative judgments. He has traveled frequently with the appointee in connection with Committee business and found him to be an outstanding analyst with regard to Committee matters. He described him as a knowledgeable legislative draftsman and as a gentleman in all respects. He had no question concerning his loyalty to the United States, nor as to his personal or professional ethics. He considered him to be above average in intelligence. He recommended him to a position of trust and responsibility in the United States Government, saying he had no question concerning his choice of professional or personal associates, nor as to his reputation or morals.

Representative GLENARD P. LIPSCOMB (California), ranking minority member of SubCommittee on Defense, said he has had a close association with the appointee since 1953. He noted the appointee currently serves as second ranking member of the Representatives Subcommittee. He described him as an acknowledged expert with regard to defense expenditures and the utilization of military personnel. He has traveled frequently with the appointee in connection with Subcommittee and Full Committee business.

WFO 161-5232

2

Representative LIPSCOMB said the appointee's family life is genteel and moderate in its activities. He and his family enjoy a good reputation within the community.

Representative LIPSCOMB recommended the appointee without hesitation or qualification to a position of trust and responsibility in the United States Government, saying he had no question concerning his loyalty to the United States, nor his character, personal habits, or associates.

WFO 161-5232

RTT:mel

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA RICHARD T. TAYLOR, JR. on December 27, 1968.

Representative GEORGE H. MAHON (Texas),  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations (Committee),  
advised he has known the appointee on a close, professional  
and social basis since 1953 during which time the appointee  
served with distinction as a minority member of the  
Committee. Representative MAHON, who is also chairman of  
the Subcommittee of Defense, of which the appointee is a  
member, said that the appointee has distinguished himself  
as a national authority with regard to legislative matters  
as they relate to the Department of Defense. He said the  
appointee by his participation in full Committee and  
Subcommittee matters has dedicated himself to the welfare  
of the country without regard to partisan participation  
in defense matters. He had no question concerning his  
loyalty to the United States nor as to his reputation,  
ethics, choice of associates or sense of dedication to  
his constituents. He recommended him without qualification  
or reservation to a position of trust and responsibility in  
the United States Government saying his selection or  
nomination as Secretary of Defense is one of the more  
outstanding Cabinet choices of President Elect RICHARD M.  
NIXON.

ROBERTA G. MESSERLY, Secretary, Office of  
Representative MICHAEL J. KIRWAN (Ohio) advised the  
representative is presently not available for interview.  
She said she is authorized to furnish the following  
information in the representative's absence concerning the  
appointee. The representative has been a close, personal  
and social associate of the appointee for more than twelve  
years having served with him as a member of the Committee.  
Representative KIRWAN, Chairman of the Subcommittee on

WFO 161-5232

RTT:mel

2

Public Works of the full Committee had also worked closely with the appointee in connection with the appointee's service as ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Education and Welfare. He had recently forwarded congratulations to him upon his selection by President Elect NIXON for nomination as a member of his Cabinet. The representative knows of no unfavorable information concerning the appointee's character, reputation, loyalty or associates. He recommends him without qualification to a position of trust and responsibility in the United States Government.

Representative JAMIE L. WHITTEN (Mississippi), advised he has known the appointee on a professional basis for more than ten years as a result of their participation in Committee matters. He considered him to be an expert in regard to legislative and fiscal matters as they relate to the Department of Defense and to the nation. He had no question concerning his patriotism or loyalty to the United States nor as to his morals, mannerisms, manliness, reputation or choice of associates. He recommended him without hesitation to a position of trust and responsibility in the United States Government.

WFO 161-5232

RTT:jac

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Wisconsin Senator

7  
Senator WILLIAM PROXMIRE advised SA TAYLOR on December 27, 1968, he has had close personal and professional association with the appointee since 1957. He said he has repeatedly demonstrated an expert knowledge with regard to legislation as it affects the welfare of the Nation. He said he is ideally fitted for appointment as Secretary of Defense as a result of his distinguished and honorable service as a member of the Sub-Committee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives. He considered him to be an excellent choice for inclusion as a member of the Cabinet of President-Elect NIXON. He said, that in his estimation, the appointee will serve his country, the Congress and President-Elect NIXON well. He had no question concerning his morals, ethics, reputation, associates or loyalty to the United States. He recommended him without hesitation to a position of trust and responsibility in the United States Government.



WFO 161-5232

PFD:nsr

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ACQUAINTANCE

On December 27, 1968, HAMER H. BUDGE, Commissioner, Securities and Exchange Commission, advised SAs PAUL F. DOUGHERTY and DARWIN B. GREEN that he has known MELVIN LAIRD since the latter became a member of Congress. BUDGE was then a Congressman and served with LAIRD both on the Appropriations Committee and Defense Subcommittee. They visited one another's homes and have continued to maintain social and professional relationships. BUDGE knows nothing in any sense derogatory affecting LAIRD's character, associates, reputation, or loyalty and LAIRD has a fine wife and a fine family consisting of three children. [REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

[REDACTED] attends the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. The [REDACTED] and his wife BARBARA [REDACTED] in their local home in nearby Maryland. The children attend local schools in their neighborhood. He recommended LAIRD for a position of trust and confidence in the Government, including the one for which he is being considered, without reservation.

WFO 161-5232

RTT:jac

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REFERENCE

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA TAYLOR on December 27, 1968:

Representative JOHN W. BYRNES, (Wisconsin), advised he has known the appointee since 1940 when both were classmates at Carleton College, North Field, Minnesota. He considers him and his wife and children to be among his closest personal friends, saying their reputation ~~within~~ in the community has always been good. He said his services as a Member of the House of Representatives has been characterized by his complete and sincere dedication for his constituents and to the Nation as well. He considered him to be a prime example of a dedicated public servant whose experience as a member of the Committee and Sub-Committee on Defense eminently qualified him for a high position with the administration of President-Elect RICHARD M. NIXON. He knew of no information which would cause him to question his morals, reputation, associates or loyalty to the United States. He recommended him without hesitation to a position of trust and responsibility in the United States Government.

WFO 161-5232

MEL:jcb

1

CREDIT AND POLICE AGENCIES

On December 27, 1968, SE CARL H. PETERSON caused a search to be made of the files of The Credit Bureau, Inc., Washington, D. C., and was advised the files contained a satisfactory credit record for the appointee.

b6  
b7C

IC KENNETH SHAFFER on December 26, 1968, determined that no record was contained in the Metropolitan Police Department files concerning the appointee, his wife BARBARA MASTERS LAIRD, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

It is to be noted that at all times an indefinite number of unidentified records are out of file and not available for review.

On December 26, 1968, IC WILLIAM H. LYERLY, JR. searched the files of the United States Park Police and no identifiable record could be found concerning the appointee and above listed relatives.

IC WILLIAM H. LYERLY, JR. caused a search to be made of the files of the Montgomery County, Police Department, and was advised on December 27, 1968, that no record was located for the appointee or above mentioned relatives.

WFO 161-5232

MEL:jcb

1

MISCELLANEOUS

Republican National Committee

On December 26, 1968, SA W. DANA CARSON determined that no record was located for the appointee at the Office of Comptroller, Republican National Committee.

Civil Service Commission

On December 26, 1968, SA WILLIAM E. TRAINOR, JR. caused a search to be made of the files of the Bureau of Personnel Investigations, Civil Service Commission (CSC), and was advised <sup>that</sup> in 1959, the CSC conducted a full field investigation on the appointee at the request of the State Department. No additional pertinent information was developed during this inquiry.

House Committee on Un-American Activities

The files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities <sup>were</sup> reviewed on December 26, 1968, by SE CARL H. PETERSON, and no identifiable record was found for the appointee.

Office of Security  
Department of State

The files of the Office of Security (SY), Department of State, reviewed by SA KENNETH B. HASER on December 26, 1968, disclosed that on March 25, 1959, the Office of Personnel, Department of State, requested SY to do a name check on MELVIN R. LAIRD as a proposed Congressional Advisor, United States Delegation, 12th World Health Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland in May, 1959. SY had the Civil Service Commission conduct a background investigation concerning the appointee in April, 1959 with favorable results. On April 14, 1959, SY granted

him clearance as a non-employee under P. L. 643, 80th Congress, as amended, for such proposed relationship.

SY again granted him the same type of clearance on January 13, 1961, for participation in the same capacity in the 14th World Health Assembly at New Delhi, India, in February, 1961. The same clearance was accorded the appointee on May 1, 1963, for the 16th World Health Assembly at Geneva in May, 1963, and again on March 9, 1965, for the 18th Assembly of the World Health Organization.

The SY file does not show any termination of clearance concerning this individual; however, SY has advised that all its clearances terminate when the person's relationship with the Department of State terminates.

#### Navy Service Record

On December 26, 1968, at Department of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Annex, Arlington, Virginia, IC JOSEPH P. JODOIN reviewed the appointee's Officer Service Record which reflected his date of birth as September 1, 1922, at Omaha, Nebraska.

Appointee enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve, on May 28, 1942, as an Apprentice Seaman, Serial Number 638 70 28. On July 1, 1943, he reported for active duty at St. Mary's College, Winona, Minnesota.

On December 10, 1943, he was appointed a Midshipman (temporary). On April 18, 1944, he was honorably discharged in order to accept an appointment on April 19, 1944, as an Ensign, Serial Number 331064, United States Naval Reserve. On April 26, 1946, he was honorably released to inactive duty as a Lieutenant (junior grade). On May 24, 1967, appointee resigned from the United States Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant (junior grade), and was issued an honorable discharge certificate.



Appointee's Officer Fitness Reports were favorable.

Appointee's officer record contained no security clearance.

Office of the Secretary of Defense

✓ WILLIAM H. QUINLAN, JR., Appraisal and Review Branch, Security Division, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), advised SA PAUL F. DOUGHERTY, on December 26, 1968, that clearances are not required of Members of Congress by OSD and that no clearance has been granted to MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

b3

SA ROBERT F. ROBINSON, JR. [redacted]

✓ [redacted], and was advised on December 26, 1968, that the files contained no pertinent identifiable information concerning the appointee.

Naval Investigative Service

On December 26, 1968, IC JOHN B. ARMSTRONG caused a search to be made of the files of the Naval Investigative Service Headquarters and was advised that MELVIN R. LAIRD, 207 South Central Avenue, Marshfield, Wisconsin, born September 1, 1922, was granted access to ~~secret~~ information in connection with Global conference to be held June 14 - 21, 1968. This clearance was based on a National Agency Check conducted by NIS. The files also reflected that he was granted access to ~~secret~~ information in connection with a Global conference to be held May 22 - 26, 1967. This clearance was also based on a National Agency Check conducted by NIS.

WFO 161-5232

JWS:jac

1

Department of State  
Conference Personnel Records

On December 27, 1968, Mrs. MARIAN M. CHICHESTER, Clerk, Career Management and Assignments Division, Office of Personnel, Department of State, advised that the Conference Personnel Records maintained in her office reflected that MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., served as one of the Congressional Advisors on the United States Delegation to the Twelfth World Health Assembly, held at Geneva, Switzerland, from May 12-29, 1959. Mrs. CHICHESTER stated that her records also verified that the appointee served as one of the Congressional Advisors on the United States Delegation to the Eighteenth World Health Assembly at Geneva, Switzerland, from May 4-21, 1965. She could locate no record which indicated that LAIRD had attended the World Health Assemblies held during 1961 and 1963.

On December 27, 1968, Mr. ARNETT F. WILLIAMS, Communications and Records Clerk, Administration Staff, Office of International Conferences, Department of State, advised SA ~~ROBERT~~ W. SPEICHER that the records of his office contained verification of LAIRD's attendance at the 1965 World Health Assembly meeting only. He could locate no record of LAIRD other than during the 1965 meeting.

WFO 161-5232

MEL:mel

1

### Newspaper Morgues

On December 27, 1968, IC KENNETH SHAFFER determined that the library files of the Washington "Evening Star" newspaper contain numerous news articles concerning the appointee, none of which were derogatory in nature. On December 26, 1968, SA WILLIAM E. TRAINOR, JR. determined that the library files of the Washington "Daily News" newspaper contains no unfavorable information concerning the appointee.

### Library of Congress

The following investigation was conducted by SA PAUL F. DOUGHERTY on December 27, 1968.

The Author Catalogue at the Library of Congress indicates that the appointee was the author, editor or contributor to the following publications:

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Published</u>
"A House Divided: Americas Strategy Gap"	MELVIN R. LAIRD	Regnery Company, Chicago, 1962
"The Conservative Papers"	Introduction by MELVIN R. LAIRD	Anchor Books, 1964
"Republican Papers"	Edited by MELVIN R. LAIRD	F. A. Praeger, 1968

The "Book Review Digest" contains the following information concerning the above publications:

WFO 161-5232

MEL:mel

2

"A House Divided: America's Strategy Gap"

"In a world 'half slave and half free' Congressman LAIRD deplores division among America's citizens on matters of foreign policy. A consensus would be arrived at, he feels, if we could have untrammelled discussion, or 'dialogue,' among ourselves... He believes that such agreement must inevitably settle on a tough policy of deterrence based on a clearly announced intent of reprisal and willingness to wage war to win and recover. Specifically, Mr. LAIRD would replace our 'underdog strategy' with threats of limited nuclear reprisals, arm NATO with nuclear defense weapons, test nuclear weapons in order to anticipate a new scientific breakthrough, train our troops in guerrilla warfare, restrict foreign aid to deserving neutral nations, and reduce taxes with an accompanying curtailment of nondefense expenditures"

Library Journal November 15, 1962

"The Conservative Papers"

"This volume was sponsored by a group of Republican congressmen who 'felt the need for a careful and scholarly re-examination of the foreign and domestic problems affecting the tranquillity of the United States.' The papers 'do not define the conservative position. But they represent the sort of thinking conservatives respect.' (Introduction) The title was suggested by the publication of 'The Liberal Papers,' edited by JAMES ROOSEVELT, 1962"

WFO 161-5232

MEL:mel

3

"Republican Papers"

"The editor has elicited contributions from Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals, academicians and public officials who probe...the bundle of interrelated urban, economic and budgetary problems that beset us. The book, released simultaneously in paperback, is not offered as a Republican platform or a handbook for precinct captains, but as a means of energizing public debate. Saturday Review (August 6, 1968) Topics include: the federal system, crime, poverty, civil rights, housing, agriculture, social security employment, the budget, monetary reform, and congressional reform."

"This is not a conventional denunciation of the Democratic administration coupled with praises for the GOP... normally...expected in an election year... If these papers have any theme, it is that consideration of America's problems must involve more of the nation; it cannot all be left up to Washington." Library Journal, July, 1968.



WFO 161-5232

MEL:lat

1

United States Secret Service

✓ IC THOMAS S. HARRELL caused a search to be made of the files of the United States Secret Service, Department of the Treasury, and was advised on December 27, 1968, that no record was located concerning the appointee.

F B I

Date: 12/31/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (161-5232) (R C)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

SPI

BUDED: 12/27/68

ReWFOreport 12/27/68.

The files of the Passport Office, Department of State, reviewed by SA KENNETH J. HASER on 12/30/68, disclose that MELVIN R. LAIRD was last issued Official Passport Y-309752 at WDC on 4/8/65, for proposed official travel abroad in connection with the World Health Organization.

The appointee was first issued Special Passport 11805 at WDC on 7/24/53, for planned travel for two months to Western Europe, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon on official business for the House Appropriations Sub-Committee. This passport was renewed at WDC on 1/21/56, to expire 7/24/57, no specific travel plans set forth. He was next issued Special Passport 191475 at WDC on 3/19/59, for official travel to Western Europe in connection with the World Health Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

LEAD: VA check pending.

1-Bureau  
1-WFOMEL:ssk  
(2)AIRTEL

JAN 1 3 1969

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

1/2/69

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, ST. LOUIS

FROM: SAC, WFO (161-5232) (RUC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR.

SPI

BUDED: 12/27/68

This is to confirm WFO telephone call to St. Louis this date, requesting review of appointee's Veterans Administration file number C 11 186 264 located Records Processing Center, St. Louis. Sutel Bureau results in form suitable for dissemination.

2- St. Louis

(1) Bureau

1- WFO

MEL:ss

(4)

161-5232-23

*[Handwritten signature]*

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATION SECTION

JAN 2 1969

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI ST LOUIS

343PM URGENT 1-2-69 JDG

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: ST. LOUIS (161-M)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR. SPI BUDED DEC. TWENTYSEVEN, PAST.

RE WFO TELEPHONE CALL TO ST. LOUIS, JAN, TWO, INSTANT.

VETS. ADMIN. RECORDS FOR LAIRD, USN SERIAL NUMBERS THREE THREE ONE ZERO SIX FOUR, AND SIX THREE EIGHT SEVEN ZERO TWO EIGHT, VETS. ADMIN. CLAIM NUMBER C ONE ONE ONE EIGHT SIX TWO SIX FOUR, WAS GRANTED SUBSISTANCE ALLOWANCE BY THE VETS. ADMIN. REGIONAL OFFICE, MILWAUKEE, OCT., FORTYSIX, UNDER THE SERVICEMEN'S READJUSTMENT ACT OF FORTYFOUR. HIS REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION FOLDER WAS RETIRED TO THE FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER, BEDFORD PARK, ILL., MAY SIXTEEN, FIFTYFIVE, HOWEVER, PERSONNEL, VETS. ADMIN. RECORD PROCESSING CENTER, ST. LOUIS, ADVISED THESE FOLDERS USUALLY DESTROYED TWO YEARS SUBSEQUENT TO RETIREMENT. ADDITIONAL DETAILS CONCERNING ABOVE SUBSISTANCE ALLOWANCE NOT SHOWN.

END

RUC

END

BGM

FBI WASH DC

JAN 2 1969

161-5792-24

NOT RECORDED  
27 JAN 30 1969

1cc destroyed  
1/2/70

9

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Gale *h*

DATE: January 2, 1969

FROM : W. V. Cleveland *WVC*

SUBJECT: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD  
SPECIAL INQUIRY-NIXON ADMINISTRATION

*h* On December 23, 1968, John D. Ehrlichman, Legal Counsel to the President-elect, requested an investigation of Representative Laird who has been designated Secretary of Defense by Mr. Nixon.

Representative Laird, aged 46, has been a United States Representative from Wisconsin since 1953. The investigation was favorable. Representative Laird is a member of the Subcommittee on Defense and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Education, and Welfare of the House Committee on Appropriations. Various Democratic and Republican members of the Committee on Appropriations, including its Chairman, Representative George H. Mahon (Democrat) of Texas, highly recommended him. Senators William Proxmire and Gaylord Nelson, both Democrats, of Wisconsin also furnished favorable comments. Representative Laird was described as an outstanding legislator and an excellent choice for the position of Secretary of Defense. *X*

Investigation is complete except for checks of the files of the Veterans Administration and the Passport Office, Department of State.

ACTION: Attached for approval is a letter to Mr. Ehrlichman transmitting the results of our investigation of Representative Laird for courier delivery.

Enc. *sent 1-2-69*

- 1 - Miss Gandy
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Cleveland
- 1 - Mr. Auerswald

*OK* OJA:ama  
(6)  
*ama*

*h* JAN 3 1969

*OK*  
REC-113  
*h*  
161-577-25

*h*  
JAN 3 1969



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATION SECTION

JAN 6 1969

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI BOSTON

949 PM URGENT 1-6-69 SEM

TO DIRECTOR AND ATLANTA

FROM BOSTON (161-2028) RUC

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPI, BUDED DECEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN LAST.

FOR INFORMATION OF ATLANTA, NIXON ADMINISTRATION REQUESTED EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION OF LAIRD, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BY PRESIDENT ELECT. LAIRD BORN SEPTEMBER ONE, NINETEEN TWENTY-TWO, OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AND IS MARRIED TO FORMER BARBARA MASTER. SERVED US NAVY NINETEEN FORTY-TWO TO NINETEEN FORTY-SIX, NSN THREE THREE ONE ZERO SIX FOUR. HE COMPLETED COURSE OF STUDY AT NAVAL SUPPLY CORP SCHOOL, WELLESLEY, MASS., WELLESLEY UNIT, WHICH WAS ADMINISTERED BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, CAMBRIDGE, MASS. DATES OF ENROLLMENT UNKNOWN BUT PRESUMABLY IN FALL OF NINETEEN FORTY-THREE OR WINTER OF NINETEEN FORTY-FOUR. INVESTIGATION AT BOSTON DETERMINED RECORDS FOR SUPPLY CORP SCHOOL FORWARDED TO US NAVAL SUPPLY CORP, ATHENS, GA.

ATLANTA AT ATHENS CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INQUIRY RE APPOINTEE'S EDUCATION AND SUTEL BUREAU JANUARY SIX INSTANT.

BOSTON IS NOT SUBMITTING REPORT UACB.

END

BGM

FBI WASH DC

161-5792-26  
JAN 6 1969

100 destroyed  
MAR 4 3 1969

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATION SECTION

JAN 7 1969

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

1025 AM URGENT 1/7/68 JDB

TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND ST. LOUIS

FROM ATLANTA 161-NEW

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MR. TOLSON  
ROOM 1248

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR. SPI, BUDED DECEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN, LAST.

FOR INFORMATION OF ST. LOUIS, NIXON ADMINISTRATION  
REQUESTED EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION OF LAIRD, WHO HAS BEEN  
NAMED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BY PRESIDENT ELECT. LAIRD BORN SEPTEMBER  
ONE, NINETEEN TWENTYTWO, OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AND IS MARRIED TO  
FORMER BARBARA MASTER. SERVED US NAVY NINETEEN FORTYTWO  
TO NINETEEN FORTYSIX, NSN THREE THREE ONE ZERO SIX FOUR. HE  
COMPLETED COURSE OF STUDY AT NAVAL SUPPLY CORP<sup>H</sup>SCHOOL,  
WELLESLEY, MASS., WELLESLEY UNIT, WHICH WAS ADMINISTERED  
BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.  
DATES OF ENROLLMENT UNKNOWN BUT PRESUMABLY IN FALL OF NINETEEN  
FORTYTHREE OR WINTER OF NINETEEN FORTYFOUR. INVESTIGATION  
AT BOSTON DETERMINED RECORDS FOR SUPPLY CORP SCHOOL FORWARDED  
TO US NAVAL SUPPLY CORP, ATHENS, GA.  
INVESTIGATION US NAVAL SUPPLY CORP SCHOOL, ATHENS, GA.  
REFLECTS THAT RECORDS CONCERNING STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED  
THAT SCHOOL IN NINETEEN FORTYTHREE OR NINETEEN FORTYFOUR  
END PAGE ONE

161-5792-27

NOT RECORDED

JAN 30 1969

MAR 3 1968  
1cc destroyed  
go/2nd

Jim

PAGE TWO

ARE PRESENTLY LOCATED NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER,  
NINE SEVEN ZERO ZERO PAGE BOULEVARD, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.  
RECORDS FOR STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED SCHOOL NINETEEN FORTYTHREE  
OR NINETEEN FORTYFOUR SHOULD BE IN SHIPMENT NUMBER ONE  
SEVEN THREE SIX THREE AND POSSIBLY BOXES NUMBERED SEVENTEE  
THROUGH FORTYTWO.

ST. LOUIS CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION.

BOSTON IS NOT SUBMITTING REPORT UACB.

ENDRUC

SAA

FBI WASH DC

155  
SA John Buckley  
H. Lewis offered, who  
advised to disregard this  
lead as this information  
was previously covered in  
check of records at Boston College  
out

- 1 - Miss Gandy
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Cleveland
- 1 - Mr. Auerswald

January 8, 1969

FOR COURIER DELIVERY

Honorable John D. Ehrlichman  
 Legal Counsel to  
 President-elect Nixon  
 Hotel Pierre  
 Fifth Avenue and East 61st Street  
 New York, New York 10021

Dear Mr. Ehrlichman:

Reference is made to my letter dated January 2, 1969, which furnished you a summary memorandum containing the results of investigation conducted concerning Representative Melvin Robert Laird.

Information has now been received indicating the files of the Veterans Administration and the Passport Office, Department of State, contain no additional pertinent information concerning Representative Laird.

This concludes the investigation in this matter.

Sincerely yours, 11-5772-29  
 NOTED  
 JAN 30 1969

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

OJA:pnh  
 (6)

MAR 18 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

RETURN TO MR. AUERSWALD, ROOM 1260.

161-5792- 30, 31, 32, (33), 34  
35, 36, 37, 38

**CHANGED TO**

62-104206- 24X, 30X, 29X1, 29X, 31X  
45X, 45X1, 51X, 53X

MAR 31 1971

CNK / jmi

C



161-5792-40, (41),

**CHANGED TO**

62-104206-58X, NR 2/2/71

**MAR 31 1971**

CMK/gmr

C

161-5792-(42), 43, 44, 45

**CHANGED TO**

62-104206-NR 1/10/72, 109X, 110X, 121X

JUL 25 1973

BW/ldr

C

# Laird's Resignation Expected This Week

A-8 0 By Michael Gettler  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Melvin R. Laird, President Nixon's chief domestic adviser, is expected to announce this week that he will leave his White House post next month, according to sources close to Laird.

The 50-year-old former Defense Secretary and eight-term congressman from Wisconsin is expected to take a position as a senior executive with Reader's Digest, these sources say.

Laird is also expected to associate himself with a number of other activities after leaving the White House, but the Reader's Digest post is said to be the principle one, associates indicate.

Reached by telephone last night, Laird declined to comment on his future activities.

Laird, who served as the Pentagon's civilian boss during the first four years of the Nixon administration, was coaxed out of semi-retirement on June 6 of this year to help shore up the White House staff tarnished and decimated by the Watergate scandal.

The easy-going and politically-savvy ex-congressman was brought in to take over many of the duties formerly held by John Ehrlichman, but more importantly to help restore White House relations with Congress.

From the start, Laird indicated that his White House tour was a temporary assignment but associates say the former lawmaker did harbor some aspirations to be nominated for the vice-presidency in the wake of the resignation of Vice President Agnew in October. After House Republican leader Gerald Ford was nominated for that job, Laird made it clear that once Ford was confirmed the new vice

president could easily take over his role as the administration's friendly broker on Capitol Hill.

Laird's expected departure from the White House comes on the heels of the resignation of Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York. Laird, privately and publicly, has frequently spoken highly of Rockefeller as one of his top choices for a number of jobs, including Defense Secretary. Some observers speculate that if Laird does show up in politics again, it may be in a campaign with Rockefeller.

Assoc. Dir. ☒  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. ☐  
Comp. Syst. ☐  
Ext. Affairs ☒  
Files & Com. ☐  
Gen. Inv. ☐  
Ident. ☐  
Inspection ☒  
Intell. ☒  
Laboratory ☐  
Plan. & Eval. ☐  
Spec. Inv. ☒  
Training ☐  
Legal Coun. ☐  
Telephone Rm. ☐  
Director Sec'y ☐

The Washington Post Times Herald A-8  
The Evening Star (Washington) ☐  
The Sunday Star (Washington) ☐  
Daily News (New York) ☐  
Sunday News (New York) ☐  
New York Post ☐  
The New York Times ☐  
The Daily World ☐  
The New Leader ☐  
The Wall Street Journal ☐  
The National Observer ☐  
People's World ☐

Date DEC 19 1973

DEC 27 1973

161-5792-A-  
NOT RECORDED  
2 DEC 27 1973

JEFF  
E. DEPT  
JAN 1 1974

ROSE 1 20 1974  
DEC 27 1973

File  
161-5792

PA

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Section

133

, 19\_\_

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.  
☐ Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg.  
☐ Forward to File Review  
☐ Attention \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Return to \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Room Ext.

## Type of References Requested:

- ☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive References Only  
☐ Nonsubversive References Only  
☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

## Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject David, Melvin S.  
 Birthdate & Place 1-22-22  
 Address Rd. 1, 111

Localities

R# 1 Date 3/3 Searcher Initials 431

Prod. -

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

UTD 161-5792 IDIR/216  
 I 9-49576 VICK  
 I 9-51187  
 I 9-51977  
 I 9-52130  
 I 9-55451 VICK  
 NPT 62-101206 b3  
 I 9-0-21860 VICK b7E  
 I 62-87819-845, 910  
 I 62-11222 24-111  
 I 62-11712  
 31004, 611, 11001, 1-27-70  
 NPT 66-1631-15114  
 NPT 100-44803-491, 764  
 NPT  
 NPT  
 NPT  
 151-4051-16

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj:

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 7/3 Initial Y.S.

FILE NUMBER

SE b7C  
b7E

79

\_\_\_\_\_

Helvin Kasek (54)

[illegible]



MAILED  
MAR 14 1975  
NAME CHECK

March 13, 1975

MELVIN R. LAIRD

SUMMARY

Captioned individual, who you advised was born September 1, 1922, at Marshfield, Nebraska, and is affiliated with the "Reader's Digest," 1730 Rhode Island Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D.C., was the subject of an applicant-type investigation conducted by the FBI in late 1968 and 1969. A copy of the FBI summary investigation dated January 2, 1969, concerning Melvin Robert Laird is attached. (161-5792-28)

Our files also reveal that Mr. Laird served as Secretary of Defense for four years until he "semi-retired." In June, 1973, he accepted a position as Chief Domestic Advisor to the President where he remained until December, 1973, when he became a Senior Executive with "Reader's Digest."

b6  
b7c

In addition, our files indicate that in January, 1972, the FBI conducted an investigation under provisions of Public Law 298 concerning [redacted] Mr. Laird's [redacted] on March 13, 1971. The investigation revealed that while attending East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee, [redacted] of the local chapter of the Student Mobilization Committee, a communist front antiwar organization. Also [redacted] was arrested in July, 1969, and charged with desecration of the American flag as he was wearing a vest made of the American flag. The charges were dropped. (62-104206-124)

REC 68

161-5792-46

The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individual based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

MAR 18 1975

Enclosure

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

EJK:ysc (4)

NOTE: Per request of [redacted]  
(Security), the White House.

DELIVERED BY LIAISON  
ON 3/13/75

b6  
b7c

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS WASHINGTON FIELD (161-5232) - ENC. (4) (BSM)  
MILWAUKEE (161-459)  
LOS ANGELES (161-1348)  
NEW YORK (161-2698)  
BALTIMORE  
ALEXANDRIA  
ST. LOUIS

FEBRUARY 19, 1976

*NAK nothing add'l since 12/27/68 per Enright 2/20/76 ml*

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (161-5792)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY BUDED FEBRUARY 26, 1976, WITHOUT FAIL. *MELVIN R LAIRD*

BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT VERY EXPEDITE SPECIAL INQUIRY TO BRING UP TO DATE A SPECIAL INQUIRY CONDUCTED CONCERNING LAIRD IN DECEMBER, 1968. HE IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT, POSITION NOT INDICATED.

BORN SEPTEMBER 1, 1922, OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AND RESIDES 5703 KIRKWOOD DRIVE, BETHESDA, MARYLAND. SEE WHO'S WHO, 38TH EDITION, PAGE 1786, FOR BACKGROUND DATA WHICH INDICATES LAIRD A FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, IS A SENIOR COUNSELLOR FOR READER'S DIGEST, HIS BUSINESS ADDRESS IN MARCH, 1975, WAS LISTED AS 1730 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOTE: Request received today.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

OJA:mal  
(6)

*161-5712-47*  
EMS 10:35PM  
FEB 24 1976

2-ENCLOSURE

RETURN TO MR. AUERSWALD, ROOM 3117

TELETYPE UNIT ☒

56 APR 22 1976

GPO : 1975 O - 567-920

PAGE TWO

REFER TO URFILES CONTAINING RESULTS OF DECEMBER, 1968, INVESTIGATION OF LAIRD WHO WAS THEN A UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FROM WISCONSIN. BRING UP TO DATE.

WASHINGTON FIELD IMMEDIATELY ASCERTAIN CURRENT ADDRESSES OF CLOSE RELATIVES AND SET OUT ANY NECESSARY LEADS AT ONCE.

CONDUCT NO NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION OF LAIRD UNLESS SOME REASON INDICATING ADVISABLE TO DO SO ARISES, AT WHICH TIME BUREAU AUTHORITY SHOULD BE REQUESTED.

FOR INFORMATION WASHINGTON FIELD A NAME CHECK WAS MADE RE LAIRD BY ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION IN FEBRUARY, 1969.

WHITE HOUSE DESIRES ORAL READING ON RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION ON A.M., FEBRUARY 27, 1976. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPERATIVE RESULTS REACH BUREAU ON OR BEFORE BUDED WITHOUT FAIL. NO DELAY WILL BE TOLERATED.

SPIN.

END

AX TO  
HANDLE

Bureau

NR 063 WA PLAIN

BA USE ONLY

10:31PM URGENT 2-19-76 SJP

TO WASHINGTON FIELD (161-5232)

MILWAUKEE (161-459)

LOS ANGELES (161-1348)

NEW YORK (161-2698)

BALTIMORE

ALEXANDRIA

ST. LOUIS

FROM DIRECTOR (161-5792)

ELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED FEBRUARY 26,  
1976, WITHOUT FAIL.

b6  
b7c

BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT VERY EXPEDITE SPECIAL  
INQUIRY TO BRING UP TO DATE A SPECIAL INQUIRY CONDUCTED CONCERNING  
LAIRD IN DECEMBER, 1968. HE IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR A  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT, POSITION NOT INDICATED.

BORN SEPTEMBER 1, 1922, OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AND RESIDES  
5703 KIRKWOOD DRIVE, BELLESDA, MARYLAND. SEE WHO'S WHO, 32TH  
EDITION, PAGE 1786, FOR BACKGROUND DATA WHICH INDICATES LAIRD,

COUSINE

161-4588-1

FEB 19 1976  
FBI - BALTIMORE



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Cleveland

DATE: 2-19-76

FROM : G. R. Steel

SUBJECT: SPECIAL INQUIRIES  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7C

We have today received requests from The White House for investigations of the following who are being considered for Presidential appointments, positions not indicated:

Robert Daniel Murphy, aged 61, honorary Chairman of the Board, Corning Glass International, New York, New York, and former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

Stephen Ailes, aged 63, President, Association of American Railroads, Washington, D. C., and former Secretary of the Army

Melvin R. Laird, aged 53, senior counsellor, "Reader's Digest," Washington, D. C., former Secretary of Defense, and former Counsellor to the President for Domestic Affairs

On February 17, 1976, the President announced the creation of an oversight board pertaining to intelligence operations with Murphy to serve as Chairman and Ailes to serve as a member. Another member of the board is Leo Cherne, Executive Director of the Research Institute of America, Incorporated, New York, New York. We previously conducted Special Inquiries concerning Cherne in April, 1971, and December, 1975, and those investigations were generally favorable.

**ACTION::** The requested investigations of Murphy, Ailes, and Laird have been ordered separately to the field and Bureau files are being checked. You will be advised of any unusual developments. The field has been instructed to conduct no neighborhood investigation in these cases without prior Bureau approval.

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - Mr. Wannall

- 1 - Mr. Cleveland
- 1 - Mr. Steel
- 1 - Mr. Auerswald

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OJA:mal  
(8)



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Section

b6

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19 76

☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.  
☐ Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg.  
☒ Forward to File Re   
☐ Attention   
☒ Return to  3125 5794  
 Room Ext.

## Type of References Requested:

- ☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive References Only  
☐ Nonsubversive References Only  
☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

## Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☒ Variations

Subject Lind, Melvin R  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

FEB 20 1976

Localities

R# 1601 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searcher Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Prod.

161-5792-46 FILE NUMBER SERIAL

I 161-5792 (overhead)  
 I 9-49576  
 I 9-51187  
 I 9-51977  
 I 9-52130  
 I 9-52451  
 I 102-104206  
 I 161-5792  
 I 161-5792-46  
 I 7-0-21860  
 I 62-87819-845, 811  
 I 62-111782-19  
 I 62-117228-29-111  
 I 66-1631-12114  
 I 100-448092-491, 764, 670  
 I 151-4551-16

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Laird, Melvin R.

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 1-81 Date 2/20 Searcher Initial 410

Prod. 1-1 b3  
b7E

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

~~X~~ Laird Melvin R.  
[Redacted] H58159

Melvin Robert (BU)

~~X~~ 62-104206-124 Sum. 1/14/74

~~X~~ 161-5792-28 1/2/69  
Sum.

Melvin

~~X~~ 9-51136

~~X~~ 9-51163

~~X~~ 9-51245

~~X~~ 9-51517

~~X~~ 9-55113

~~X~~ 9-56836

~~X~~ 26-399527 (11)

~~X~~ 43-16347

~~X~~ 89-2517

~~X~~ 95-152334

~~X~~ 98-46589

~~X~~ 176-34 Doc 4/13/71

~~X~~ 9-0 17752

~~X~~ 62-9798-A Even 5/23/70  
2/18/70 b3  
b7E

~~X~~ 62-98771-538

[Redacted]

~~X~~ 94-3-4-221-1169

~~X~~ 100-438904-476

Subj: David McLean R.

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 601 Date 2/20 Searcher Initial 410

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Melvin Con't

NDL 100-446761-30-98a, 112, 118

100-447766-64

100-448092-777

~~I~~ 100-463822-2

NP 100-469041-17

[illegible]

~~7A~~ [redacted] b3 b7E

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76-25593

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John D. St. James, Jr.  
3/20/70

b3

-b7E

-D / E

## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Laird, Melvin R.

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 601 Date 2/20 Searcher Initial 410

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBERSERIALMelvin R. (WMA)SIMelvin visit to the University  
of Wisconsin100-446761-30-102Melvin visit to University of  
Wisconsin100-446761-927Change to 62-104206-68X

(43)

FEB 23 1960

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 24 1976

TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR007 MI PLAIN

5:32PM NITEL 2/24/76 KDV

TO : DIRECTOR (161-5792)

FROM: MILWAUKEE (161-459) (RLC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD; SPIN, BUDED FEBRUARY 26, 1976, WITHOUT  
FAIL.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO WFO AND OTHERS, FEBRUARY 19, 1976,  
AND WFO TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND OTHERS, FEBRUARY 20, 1976.

ASSOCIATE: ON INSTANT DATE, EDWARD W. HELLER (RETIRED),  
412 WEST BLODGETT AVE., MARSHFIELD, WIS., AN ASSOCIATE OF  
APPOINTEE, WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED HIS CLOSE, PERSONAL  
ASSOCIATION WITH APPOINTEE HAS CONTINUED UP TO THE PRESENT  
DATE. HELLER POINTED OUT THAT APPOINTEE VISITS MARSHFIELD  
FOUR OR FIVE TIMES PER YEAR TO VISIT HIS MOTHER, HELEN C.  
LAIRD. HELLER CONTINUES TO HAVE HIGH RESPECT FOR APPOINTEE'S  
INTEGRITY AND CHARACTER AND FEELS STRONGLY THAT APPOINTEE IS  
HONORABLE INDIVIDUAL POSSESSING EXCELLENT REPUTATION.

ARREST: [REDACTED] MARSHFIELD PD, REVIEWED HIS  
DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS ON FEBRUARY 20, 1976, STATING HE COULD  
LOCATE NO RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH MRS. HELEN C. LAIRD  
(APPOINTEE'S MOTHER), 228 SOUTH CHERRY STREET, MARSHFIELD.  
END PAGE ONE

MR. STEEL  
RM. 3621

b6  
b7c

161-170-48  
NOT RECORDED  
APR 6 1976

56 APR 22 1976



ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, THROUGH DISCREET INVESTIGATION, IT WAS VERIFIED THAT MRS. LAIRD CONTINUES TO RESIDE AT 202 SOUTH CHERRY STREET IN MARSHFIELD.

ON FEBRUARY 20, 1976, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE CONTACTED AT THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES WITH NO RECORD BEING LOCATED IDENTIFIABLE WITH APPOINTEE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]:

RAY MC GINNIS, CHIEF OF POLICE, CHETEK, WISCONSIN PD;

b6  
b7c

[REDACTED], BARRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN SHERIFF'S OFFICE; [REDACTED], RECORDS CLERK, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN PD; AND [REDACTED], RECORDS CLERK, EAU CLAIRE, COUNTY, WISCONSIN SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE CONTACTED AT THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES WITH NO RECORD BEING LOCATED IDENTIFIABLE WITH [REDACTED]:

b6  
b7c

CHARLES GRANT, SHERIFF, ST. CROIX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, HUDSON, WIS.; PERRY LARSON, CHIEF OF POLICE, RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN PD. LARSON ADDED THAT [REDACTED] RESIDE [REDACTED], [REDACTED] TELEPHONE [REDACTED], AND THAT HE IS

END PAGE TWO

MI 161-458 PAGE THREE

FAMILIAR WITH THEIR RESIDENCE WHICH IS LOCATED ON [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]  
PAGE, NO REPORT BEING SUBMITTED.

ADMINISTRATIVE: ON INSTANT DATE, A FILE REVIEW OF  
MI 100-16393, CAPTIONED "VIETNAM MORATORIUM COMMITTEE; SM"  
REFLECTS TWO NEWSPAPER ARTICLES RE APPOINTEE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. BOTH ARTICLES APPEARED IN WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY  
(EAU CLAIRE, WIS.) NEWSPAPER ENTITLED, "THE SPECTATOR" ON  
OCTOBER 9, 1969.

b6  
b7C

THE FIRST ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY [REDACTED] IS HEADLINED  
"WAR MEMORIAL, WAR PROTEST - MORATORIUM FUSES IDEALOGICAL  
EXTREMES" AND DESCRIBES RALLY TO TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 15, 1969.  
THIS RALLY WAS DESCRIBED IN THE ARTICLE AS THE VIETNAM  
MORATORIUM MARCH AND THE PERTINENT PART OF ARTICLE AS IT  
RELATES TO [REDACTED] IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS:

b6  
b7C

"THREE SPEAKERS WERE CHOSEN AS 'INDIVIDUALS AND NOT  
REPRESENTING ANY CERTAIN GROUPS' TO SPEAK AT THE PRE-MARCH  
RALLY AT 7 P.M. IN CLEM PARK. THEY ARE [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

END PAGE THREE

[REDACTED] MELVIN LAIRD [REDACTED]

HAD NOT GIVEN CONSENT TO SPEAK BEFORE THE MEETING. HE HAS  
SINCE REFUSED THE REQUEST. (SEE LETTER TO THE EDITOR, PAGE 2)."

ALSO CONTINUED IN THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSPAPER IS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LETTER TO THE EDITOR WHICH IS HEADLINED, [REDACTED]

EXPLAINS DECISION" WITH REMAINDER OF HIS LETTER QUOTED AS  
FOLLOWS:

"TO THE EDITOR: I WAS ASKED BY THE VIETNAM MORATORIUM  
COMMITTEE TO SPEAK AT A RALLY BEFORE THE MARCH. I DECLINED  
THE INVITATION. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO  
EXPLAIN MY DECISION, NOT TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR IT.

I FELT THAT USING MY NAME, BECAUSE OF MY FATHER'S  
POSITION, TO DRAW ATTENTION AND PUBLICITY WAS A TERRIBLE  
MISTAKE AND SEEMED TO TAKE AWAY FROM THE BASIC PURPOSE OF  
THE MORATORIUM. IF YOU BELIEVE IN SOMETHING, PUBLICITY  
SHOULD NOT BE OF ANY IMPORTANCE. HOWEVER, I DO GIVE MY  
SUPPORT TO THE MORATORIUM AND URGE OTHERS TO DO SO.

I FEEL THAT THE VIETNAM WAR IS GROSSLY IMMORAL AND IT  
IS TIME FOR THE END. AS CONCERNED STUDENTS IN THIS COUNTRY WE  
END PAGE FOUR

MI 161-459 PAGE FIVE

HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL OUR FUTURE AND IT IS TIME TO GRASP  
THIS POWER. A MARCH BRINGS ATTENTION, BUT REVCLUTION BRINGS  
ACTION." (SIGNED [REDACTED])

b6  
b7C

IT IS NOTED SA [REDACTED] CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION AT  
MILWAUKEE, WIS.; SA [REDACTED] CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION AT  
MARSHFIELD, WIS.; SA [REDACTED] CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION  
AT HUDSON AND RIVER FALLS, WIS.; AND SA EUGENE I. SATHER  
CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION AT CHETEK AND EAU CLAIRE, WIS.

PERSONS CONTACTED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INVESTIGATION  
WERE ADVISED OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE PROVISIONS  
OF THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974.  
END.

FBI

Date: 2/24/76

DO

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (MAIL) AND  
SACS, ALEXANDRIA NEW HAVEN  
NEW YORK (161-2698)  
SAN DIEGO SAN FRANCISCO

FROM: SAC, WFO (161-5232) ✓

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD. SPECIAL INQUIRY. BUDED FEBRUARY 26,  
1976, WITHOUT FAIL

RE BUREAU TELETYPE DATED FEBRUARY 19, 1976, CARBON  
COPY NEW YORK AND ALEXANDRIA.

BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT VERY EXPEDITE  
SPECIAL INQUIRY TO BRING UP TO DATE A SPECIAL INQUIRY  
CONDUCTED CONCERNING LAIRD IN DECEMBER, 1968. HE IS  
BEING CONSIDERED FOR A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT, POSITION  
NOT INDICATED.

BORN SEPTEMBER 1, 1922, OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AND RESIDES  
5703 KIRKWOOD DRIVE, BETHESDA, MARYLAND. SOCIAL SECURITY  
NUMBER 392-14-5736.

b6  
b7cTHE FOLLOWING ARE ASSOCIATES OF THE APPOINTEE:  - OPERATIONS   6 1976

- ①-Bureau  
1-Tickler  
1-WFO

RFQ:smv  
(3)

Approved: NFS  
RM

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M Per

56 APR 22 1976



FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)b6  
b7CVia \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO WFO 161-5232

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, READERS  
DIGEST, PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK, 914-769-7000; THE HONORABLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
THE HONORABLE STEVEN DEROUNIAN, 15 CATERET PLACE, GARDEN  
CITY, NEW YORK, OFFICE 516-535-3312, HOME 516-PI2-8585;  
THE HONORABLE DAVID PACKARD, HEWLETT - PACKARD COMPANY,  
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, OFFICE 415-493-1501; GENERAL

b6  
b7C

\_\_\_\_\_, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE (RETIRED),  
INSILCO CORPORATION, 1000 RESEARCH PARKWAY, MERIDEN,  
CONNECTICUT, OFFICE 203-634-2002; THE HONORABLE BARRY J.  
SHILLITO, TELEDYNE - RYAN, 2701 HARBOR DRIVE, SAN DIEGO,  
CALIFORNIA, 714-291-7311.

WHITE HOUSE DESIRES ORAL READING ON RESULTS OF THIS  
INVESTIGATION ON A.M. FEBRUARY 27, 1976. THEREFORE, IT IS  
IMPERATIVE RESULTS REACH BUREAU ON OR BEFORE BUDED WITHOUT  
FAIL. NO DELAY WILL BE TOLERATED.

ALL OFFICE HANDLE APPROPRIATE INTERVIEWS OF ASSOCIATES.

NEW YORK VERIFY EMPLOYMENT AT READERS DIGEST PERSONNEL  
OFFICE AT PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK.  
END.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 24 1976

TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

NR007 SL PLAIN

1:45PM NITEL 2-24-76 TJO

TO DIRECTOR (161-5792)

WASHINGTON FIELD (161-5232)

FROM ST. LOUIS (161-NPRC-C) (RUC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPI, BUDED: FEBRUARY 26, 1976, WITHOUT FAIL.

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPE TO WASHINGTON FIELD, FEBRUARY 19, 1976, WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE NITEL TO BUREAU, FEBRUARY 20, 1976.

INVESTIGATION AT NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER-CIVILIAN (NPRC-C), ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, FAILED TO LOCATE OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FOLDER (OPF) FOR APPOINTEE'S EMPLOYMENTS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, 1969 TO 1972; OR AS DOMESTIC ADVISER TO PRESIDENT, WASHINGTON, D.C., 1973 TO 1974.

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE. IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND REVIEW OPF AT THE WHITE HOUSE PERSONNEL OFFICE.

END

MR. STEEL  
RM. 3821

161-5792-50

APR 6 1976

124

56 APR 22 1976

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
161-5792-50  
OPF

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FFR 25 1976  
TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep. A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst.	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

LA 073

NR 006 LA PLAIN

12:33PM NITEL 2-25-76 JEM

TO DIRECTOR (161-5792)

FROM LOS ANGELES (161-1343) (RUC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED FEBRUARY 26, 1976,  
WITHOUT FAIL.

REBUTEL TO WASHINGTON FIELD FEBRUARY 19, 1976 AND  
WASHINGTON FIELD TEL TO BUREAU FEBRUARY 21, 1976.

ARREST RECORD:

NO ARREST RECORD LOCATED IDENTIFIABLE WITH APPOINTEE'S

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] POLICE DEPARTMENT; LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA,  
POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

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VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCE OF RELATIVES:

NOT RECORDED

APR 6 1976

[REDACTED] ADVISED SHE IS ACQUAINTED WITH [REDACTED]

56 APR 22 1976

LA 161-1348 PAGE TWO

[REDACTED]  
AS NEIGHBORS AND BELIEVES THEM TO BE PERSONS OF GOOD  
CHARACTER, ASSOCIATES, REPUTATION, AND LOYALTY. SHE  
SAID [REDACTED] AT CALIFORNIA STATE  
COLLEGE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

ALL INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED WERE APPRISED OF THE PROVISIONS  
OF THE PRIVACY ACT AND THOSE REQUESTING CONFIDENTIALITY HAVE  
BEEN SO NOTED.

END

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FFR 25 1976  
TELETYPE

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Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NY 019

NR 003 NY PLAIN

202 PM URGENT 2/25/76 ATL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ADIC, NEW YORK (161-2698) (P)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPI, BUDED: FEB. 26, 1976

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO NEW YORK, FEB. 19, 1976.

ON FEB. 24, 1976, [REDACTED] PERSONNEL DEPT., CHICAGO  
PNEUMATIC TOOL COMPANY, 6 E. 44TH ST., NEW YORK, NEW YORK,  
ADVISED APPOINTEE IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS FOR ABOVE COMPANY. ADDED SHE IS NOT PERSONALLY  
ACQUAINTED WITH LAIRD NOR ARE THERE ANY BOARD MEMBERS CURRENTLY  
AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT RE LAIRD.

ON FEB. 25, 1976, GEORGE JENKINS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD,  
METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE, 1 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, NEW YORK,  
ADVISED APPOINTEE IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS, METROPOLITAN LIFE. HAS BEEN ON BOARD SINCE 1974  
AND ATTENDED 20 MEETINGS. DESCRIBED LAIRD AS CAPABLE,  
INTELLIGENT, INTERESTED. HAS IMPRESSIVE BACKGROUND AND IS  
WELL RESPECTED BY OTHER BOARD MEMBERS. KNOWS OF NO DEROGATORY  
INFORMATION. WOULD RECOMMEND.

56 APR 22 1976 1246  
END

ER. STEEL  
RM. 3821

161-5792-52

NOT RECORDED  
23 APR 6 1976

red



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 25 1976

TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

NR 002 AX PLAIN

7:00 PM NITEL FEB. 25, 1976 VAN

TO: DIRECTOR (161-5792)

FROM: ALEXANDRIA (161-3446) (P)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUREAU DEADLINE:  
FEBRUARY 26, 1976, WITHOUT FAIL.

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ALEXANDRIA, FEBRUARY 19, 1976.

SPECIAL CLERK [REDACTED] CAUSED A SEARCH TO BE MADE  
[REDACTED] AND WAS  
ADVISED ON FEBRUARY 24, 1976, [REDACTED] CONTAINED NOTHING  
DEROGATORY CONCERNING THE APPLICANT.

SPECIAL CLERK [REDACTED] CAUSED A SEARCH TO BE MADE  
[REDACTED], AND WAS ADVISED  
ON FEBRUARY 24, 1976, [REDACTED] CONTAINED NO PERTINENT  
IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE APPLICANT'S SPOUSE,  
BARBARA LAIRD, NEE MASTERS.

SPECIAL CLERK [REDACTED] CAUSED A SEARCH TO BE MADE OF  
THE FILES OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT  
AND WAS ADVISED ON FEBRUARY 24, 1976, THAT NO RECORD WAS LOCATED  
CONCERNING THE APPLICANT.

ON FEBRUARY 20, 1976, SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED]

56 APR 22 1976

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161-5792-53  
NOT RECORDED

23 APR 6 1976

PAGE TWO

ALEXANDRIA FILE 161-3446

REVIEWED THE OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FOLDER (OPF) OF MELVIN R. LAIRD, DATE OF BIRTH SEPTEMBER 1, 1922, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 392-14-5736, AT THE PERSONNEL DATA BRANCH, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (OSD), THE PENTAGON. THE OPF CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING PERTINENT INFORMATION SUBSEQUENT TO DECEMBER, 1968:

DATE	ACTION
JANUARY 22, 1969	PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.
JANUARY 30, 1973	RESIGNATION FROM PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT-EXCEPTED APPOINTMENT (EA) NOT TO EXCEED (NTE) JUNE 30, 1973, AS A CONSULTANT, OSD.
JUNE 17, 1973	SEPARATION - APPOINTMENT IN WHITE HOUSE AS CONSULTANT.
JUNE 15, 1973	PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT AS COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.
JANUARY 31, 1974	RESIGNATION TO ACCEPT A POSITION

PAGE THREE

ALEXANDRIA FILE 161-3446

IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

FEBRUARY 1, 1974

EA, NTE, JUNE 30, 1974, INTERMITTENT AS A CONSULTANT TO THE OSD.

JULY 1, 1974

CONVERSION TO EA, NTE, JUNE 30, 1975, AS A CONSULTANT TO OSD.

JULY 1, 1975

CONVERSION TO EA, NTE, JUNE 30, 1976, AS A CONSULTANT TO OSD.

THE FILE CONTAINED SEVERAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS.

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ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] REVIEWED THE SECURITY FILE OF MELVIN R. LAIRD, DATE OF BIRTH SEPTEMBER 1, 1922, AT MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 392-14-5736, AT THE PERSONNEL SECURITY BRANCH, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (OSD), THE PENTAGON. THE FILE CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING PERTINENT INFORMATION:

DATE

CLEARANCE

JANUARY 22, 1969

~~TOP SECRET~~: BASED ON A BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION COMPLETED BY THE

PAGE FOUR

ALEXANDRIA FILE 161-3446

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

(FBI), JANUARY 2, 1969; GRANTED BY

WILLIAM QUINLAN, DIRECTOR,

PERSONNEL SECURITY BRANCH.

JANUARY 25, 1974

~~TOP SECRET~~; BASED ON A BACKGROUND

INVESTIGATION COMPLETED JANUARY

2, 1969, BY THE FBI, ~~CLEARANCE~~

~~TERMINATED JUNE 30, 1975.~~

THE FILE CONTAINED NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION OR SECURITY

VIOLATIONS.

THE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED BY SPECIAL AGENT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TO THE SECRETARY OF  
DEFENSE, ADVISED ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, THAT THE APPOINTEE  
SERVED AS THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FROM JANUARY 22, 1969, TO  
JANUARY 30, 1973. [REDACTED] STATED [REDACTED]

APPOINTEE FOR HIS ENTIRE TENURE AS THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.  
SHE CHARACTERIZED HIM AS A GREAT PERSON AND WORKER WHO IS  
VERY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS EMPLOYEES. [REDACTED] KNEW OF NOTHING

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*Why Teamster*  
*clearance in current.*  
*By K. R. R. A. X. D. I. V. 2/27/76*

PAGE FIVE

ALEXANDRIA FILE 161-3446

DEROGATORY RELATIVE TO THE CHARACTER, ASSOCIATES, REPUTATION, OR LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF THE APPOINTEE, AND SHE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND HIM FOR ANY GOVERNMENT POSITION.

SERGEANT MAJOR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], OFFICE OF SECURITY OF DEFENSE, ADVISED ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, THAT SHE SERVED IN HER PRESENT POSITION WHEN THE APPOINTEE WAS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FROM JANUARY 22, 1969, TO JANUARY 30, 1973. SERGEANT MAJOR [REDACTED] RESPECTED AND ADMIRERD THE APPOINTEE A GREAT DEAL. SHE KNEW OF NOTHING DEROGATORY RELATIVE TO HIS CHARACTER, ASSOCIATES, REPUTATION, OR LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND SHE WOULD RECOMMEND HIM FOR A POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

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THE HONORABLE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] FOR MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS, ADVISED ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, THAT HE WORKED SEVERAL STAFF POSITIONS UNDER THE APPOINTEE WHEN HE WAS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND HE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE APPOINTEE FOR ANY POSITION IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED] KNEW OF NOTHING DEROGATORY RELATIVE TO THE

3



PAGE SIX

ALEXANDRIA FILE 161-3446

CHARACTER, ASSOCIATES, REPUTATION, OR LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF THE APPOINTEE.

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[REDACTED] DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ADVISED ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, THAT HE HAD ONLY OCCASIONALLY COME IN CONTACT WITH THE APPOINTEE WHEN HE WAS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, BUT THAT BASED ON THIS CONTACT SHE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND HIM FOR A POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT ELLSWORTH, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ADVISED ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, THAT HE HAD SERVED UNDER THE APPOINTEE IN SEVERAL POSITIONS WHEN THE APPOINTEE WAS

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. ELLSWORTH STATED THAT THE APPOINTEE IS EXTREMELY COMPETENT IN ALL AREAS AND HE KNEW OF NOTHING DEROGATORY RELATIVE TO HIS CHARACTER, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES,

AND LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND HIGHLY RECOMMENDED HIM TO A POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

LEAD. ALEXANDRIA. AT ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. WILL FORWARD RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS OF ADDITIONAL REFERENCES AND ASSOCIATES

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PAGE SEVEN

ALEXANDRIA FILE 161-3446

WHEN SAME BECOMES AVAILABLE.

END.

PLS ACK 9

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1976

TELETYPE

NR010 CE PLAIN

6:47PM NITEL FEBRUARY 26, 1976 JDC

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

WFO

FROM: CHARLOTTE (161-637) (RUC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPIN. BUDED FEBRUARY 27, 1976.

RE WFO TELCALL, FEBRUARY 26, 1976.

RESIDENCE OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] VERIFIED. APPOINTEE [REDACTED]

ENJOY EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN COMMUNITY. NO IDENTIFICATION  
RECORD LOCATED WITH CLERK OF COURT, SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION,  
SWAIN COUNTY, BRYSON CITY, N. C., EXCEPT THAT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ARRESTED FOR EXPIRED INSPECTION CERTIFICATE AND FAILURE  
TO STOP AT STOP SIGN, WAS FINED \$16, ON DECEMBER 12, 1974.  
RECORDS OF CLERK OF COURT, SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION, JACKSON  
COUNTY, SYLVA, N. C., REVIEWED AND NO RECORD FOR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FOXCROFT APARTMENTS, CHAPEL HILL  
N. C., ADVISED APPOINTEE [REDACTED] HAS  
RESIDED AT [REDACTED] SINCE AUGUST, 1975, AND PRESENTLY IS

[REDACTED] AND ENJOYS AN EXCELLENT

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MR. [REDACTED]  
RM. 5921

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161-5792-54

NOT RECORDED  
23 APR 6 1976

56 APR 22 1976

PAGE TWO CE 161-637

REPUTATION. [REDACTED]

FLORA PARRISH, CHAPEL HILL, N. C., PD, COULD LOCATE NC  
RECORD FOR APPOINTEE [REDACTED]

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BUREAU'S ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO APPOINTEE [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], WHO WAS RECENTLY THE SUBJECT OF  
DEPARTMENTAL APPLICANT INVESTIGATION IN CONNECTION WITH HIS  
POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT AS AUSA, WDNC, ASHEVILLE, N. C.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY CHARLOTTE CAPTIONED [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], DEPARTMENTAL APPLICANT, AUSA, WDNC," BY  
SA [REDACTED] DATED JANUARY 23, 1976.

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END.

HOLD

FBI

Date: 2/26/76

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (161-5232) (P)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD

SPECIAL INQUIRY

BUDED 2/26/76 WITHOUT FAIL

Re Butel to WFO dated 2/19/76.

LEADWASHINGTON FIELDAT WASHINGTON, D.C. IRS, Secret Service and  
CSC outstanding.DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.EMPLOYMENT① Bureau  
1-WFORFQ:smv  
(2)SD 161-5792-55  
MCT-29

NOT RECORDED

23 APR 6 1976

H 390

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

56 APR 22 1976



WHITE HOUSE OFFICE (WHO)

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on 2/24/76:

A review of the Official Personnel File of  
MELVIN R. LAIRD revealed the following information not  
reported during the previous investigation:

- 1/22/69 Presidential Appointment as Secretary of Defense.
- 1/30/73 Resignation and excepted appointment not to  
exceed 6/30/73 as Consultant, Office of  
Secretary of Defence (OSD).
- 6/17/73 Separation from the above.
- 6/18/73 Excepted Appointment (Presidential Commission)  
as Counsellor to the President for Domestic Affairs.
- 1/31/74 Resignation.

The file also contained a copy of a document  
which indicated that LAIRD entered on duty 2/1/74 as  
a Consultant on an intermittent basis with OSD.

A review of the files of the Records Office,  
White House, revealed the following information not  
previously reported:

- 1/21/69 To be Secretary of Defense.
- 6/18/73 To be Counsellor to the President for Domestic Affairs.
- 8/1/73 Designated a Member of the Domestic Council.
- 12/9/70 Appointed Vice Chairman of the Interdepartmental  
Committee for the Voluntary Payroll Savings  
Plan for the Purchase of United States Savings  
Bonds for a term of two years.

WFO 161-5232

2

4/25/75 To be a Member of the Board of Trustees of  
the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing  
Arts for a term expiring September 1, 1984.

WFO 161-5232  
RPC:brs  
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The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent (SA) [redacted] on February 25, 1976:

Mr. WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR., Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, White House, advised he has known MELVIN LAIRD on a professional and personal basis for 13 or 14 years. BAROODY has worked under LAIRD's supervision for much of this time, having served as his Deputy. He advised that all of his comments concerning the appointee would be in the superlative. LAIRD is a dedicated public servant and is a person of exceptional character, as well as great ability. There is absolutely no question about the appointee's loyalty to this country or his ability to handle sensitive information. BAROODY knows nothing derogatory concerning the appointee and would have no hesitation in recommending him for a position of confidence and trust.

[redacted] Mr. BAROODY, advised she has known LAIRD on a professional basis since 1971. She worked under his general supervision both at the Pentagon and at the White House. She has maintained close touch with the appointee to date. She considers him to be a very pleasant, hard working, dedicated public servant. She knows of absolutely nothing derogatory concerning him either in a professional or a personal sense. She is pleased to recommend him for a position of confidence and trust with the Government.

[redacted] President, advised he first met MELVIN LAIRD during the period 1960 - 1963 when they worked closely together as fellow Congressmen. LAIRD is such a capable and well liked person that he is highly regarded by both Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill. His dedication and sense of loyalty to this country are widely recognized. [redacted] has absolutely no question about the appointee's loyalty to this country and would recommend him for a position of confidence and trust.

Mr. JOHN VENEMAN, Counselor to the Vice President, advised he has known MELVIN LAIRD on a professional basis since the late 1960's. While the appointee was Secretary of Defense, he was in regular contact with VENEMAN who then served as Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. All of VENEMAN's comments concerning

WFO 161-5232

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the appointee are favorable and he knows of absolutely nothing derogatory concerning him. He is pleased to recommend him for a position of confidence and trust.

WFO 161-5232

RFQ:smj

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GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
[redacted] on February 24, 1976.

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[redacted]  
the Secretary to the Board, advised that the appointee was elected as a member of the Board of Trustees for the above University on July 1, 1975, for a three year term.

*2 wwd*  
WOLFTRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING  
ARTS ENTERPRISE

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[redacted]  
Deputy Administrator for the Wolftrap Foundation, advised that the appointee was elected to the Board of Directors in 1973, and served as Chairman during 1974. [redacted] further advised that the appointee was recently re-elected for another three year term as a member of the Board of Directors for the above foundation.



REFERENCES

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [ ] on February 23, 1976:

Mr. CARL S. WALLACE, Senior Corporate Vice President for Purolator, Incorporated, 1800 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. (WDC), advised that he has known the appointee for approximately the past 25 years. He stated that he was the appointee's Administrative Assistant while the appointee was in Congress and he was Special Assistant while the appointee worked for the Department of Defense. WALLACE stated that the character, associates, reputation, and loyalty of the appointee are above reproach and he recommended him for a position of trust and confidence with the United States Government. WALLACE described the appointee as being an honest, straightforward, intelligent, down-to-earth, knowledgeable in Government affairs and qualified for any Cabinet position. He stated further that the appointee impresses him as having a great memory and good common sense.

Mr. JACK MILLS, Senior Vice President for the American Tobacco Institute, Suite 1200, 1776 K Street, N.W., WDC, advised that he met the appointee when he was in the State Senate for Wisconsin. He stated that he worked politically with the appointee over the years and described him as being a good family man who is outspoken and straightforward. He stated that the appointee will speak out when it becomes necessary at any given point in time. MILLS advised that he has traveled with the appointee all over the world and has come to the conclusion that the appointee is the most dedicated citizen he has ever had the pleasure of knowing. MILLS concluded by stating that the character, associates, reputation, and loyalty of the appointee are above reproach and recommended him highly for a position of trust and confidence with the United States Government.

The Honorable BRYCE HARLOW, Vice President of Procter and Gamble, 1801 K Street, N.W., Suite 1104, WDC, advised that he has known the appointee for the past 30 years. HARLOW stated that he knows the appointee on a social and professional basis and would have no hesitation in recommending him for a position of trust and confidence

WFO 161-5232

RFQ:dtl

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with the United States Government.

[redacted]  
the appointee, described the appointee as being even-tempered and a person who is concerned with the immediate problems at hand. She stated that he gets along well with everyone and is a good family man. [redacted] advised that she has known the appointee since he was in Congress and enjoys a mutually friendly relationship. She commented favorably regarding the character, associates, reputation, and loyalty of the appointee and stated that she would recommend him for a position of trust and confidence with the United States Government.

[redacted]  
[redacted] appointee, advised that she has known the appointee for approximately the past year. She stated that she is pleased to work with the appointee, and that she considers him to be a sincere, compassionate, straightforward individual. She commented favorably regarding the character, associates, reputation, and loyalty of the appointee and recommended him without hesitation for a position of trust and confidence with the United States Government.

Mr. CARSTENS SLACK, Vice President of the Washington Office for Phillips Petroleum, 1825 K Street, N.W., WDC, advised he has known the appointee for the past 15 years. He stated that he met the appointee through his wife's association with the appointee's spouse. SLACK stated that he was impressed with the appointee's alertness and intelligence. SLACK further stated that he considered the appointee to be an impressive and affable individual who gives his full attention to any person who he conversing with. SLACK stated that the appointee did an excellent job in the Department of Defense and has always been successfully diligent in his efforts with the news media. SLACK commented favorably regarding the character, associates, reputation, and loyalty of the appointee and recommended him without reservation for a position of trust and confidence with the United States Government.

WFO 161-5232

AJD:brs

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United States Senate

On February 23, 1976, Senator J. GLENN BEALL, JR., Maryland, advised Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] as follows:

The Senator has known the appointee, MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, personally, for many years. He described Mr. LAIRD as a "good man" in every respect. Nothing adverse concerning the appointee's character, reputation, loyalty or associates has ever come to the attention of him. Senator BEALL recommended Mr. LAIRD for a responsible position of trust and confidence.

U.S. Senators

The following investigation was conducted by SA MAURICE G. AUSTIN on February 24, 1976.

U.S. Senator CHARLES McC. MATHIAS, JR., Maryland, advised he has known the appointee, MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, very well since approximately 1960. He served with him as a colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1960 to 1968 and has continued to know him well to the present time. He thinks very high of the appointee and considers him to be very capable, dependable, and trustworthy. He commented favorably regarding his character, associates, reputation, and loyalty, recommending him for a position of trust and confidence.

U.S. Senator WILLIAM PROXIMIRE, Wisconsin, advised his comments would be the same as given in the previous investigation in 1968. He continues to think highly of the appointee and he continues to recommend him for a position of trust and confidence.

U.S. Senator GAYLORD NELSON, Wisconsin, advised he has known the appointee very well for many years and knows him to be a very capable, honest, and trustworthy person, who he highly regards as being well qualified and he considers his character, associates, reputation, and loyalty to be above reproach. He recommended the appointee for a position of trust and confidence.

U.S. Representative JOHN J. RHODES, Arizona and Minority Leader, advised he was a former colleague of the appointee at the U.S. House of Representatives and has continued to know him well as a personal friend. They are golf partners and he knows his family and considers them to be fine persons in all respects. The appointee is very highly regarded by his former colleagues. He is sincere, capable, honest, and dependable. He commented favorably regarding his character, associates, reputation, and loyalty, recommending him for a position of trust and confidence.

WFO 161-5232

REC:SMV

1

United States House of Representatives

On February 24, 1976, Special Agent (SA) MAURICE G. AUSTIN determined from the employment records maintained at the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, United States House of Representatives, the appointee entered on duty as the Representative for the Seventh District of Wisconsin on January 3, 1953, and resigned on January 21, 1960.



WFO 161-5232

RFQ:smv

1

CREDIT AND POLICE AGENCIES

Special Agent (SA) CHARLES W. SMITH caused a search to be made of the files of the Credit Bureau, Incorporated, Washington, D.C., and was advised on February 23, 1976, that the files contained a satisfactory credit record for the appointee.

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On February 23, 1976, Special Clerk (SC) [redacted] determined that no arrest record was contained in the Metropolitan Police Department files concerning the appointee or his spouse BARBARA MASTERS LAIRD.

It is to be noted that at all times an indefinite number of unidentified records are out of file and not available for review.

On February 23, 1976, SC [redacted] determined that no record was contained in the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Motor Vehicle Services, Government of the District of Columbia files concerning the appointee or his above-mentioned spouse.

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On February 23, 1976, SC [redacted] searched the files of the U.S. Park Police and no identifiable adult criminal or traffic record could be located regarding the appointee or his above-mentioned spouse.

On February 24, 1976, SC [redacted] caused a search to be made of the files of the Montgomery County, Maryland, Police Department and was advised that no identifiable adult criminal record could be located regarding the appointee or his above-mentioned spouse.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1976

TELETYPE

NR009 MI PLAIN

8:53PM NITEL 2/26/76 KMV

TO: DIRECTOR (161-5792)

FROM: MILWAUKEE (161-459) (RNC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD; SPIN, BUDED FEBRUARY 26, 1976, WITHOUT  
FAIL.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

RE MILWAUKEE NITEL TO BUREAU FEBRUARY 24, 1976.

THE FOLLOWING ASSOCIATES AND MEMBERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL  
PARTIES WITHIN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN WERE CONTACTED ON  
FEBRUARY 26, 1976, BY THE INDICATED AGENTS:

WILLIAM JOSEPH MULLIGAN, USA, EDW, MILWAUKEE,  
WISCONSIN, ADVISED SA WILLIAM F. YETMAN, JR. THAT  
HE HAS KNOWN APPOINTEE SINCE APPROXIMATELY 1972 WHEN APPOINTEE  
WAS CONGRESSMAN FROM WISCONSIN. USA MULLIGAN HAS HAD NUMEROUS  
CONTACTS OF A POLITICAL NATURE WITH APPOINTEE. USA MULLIGAN  
DESCRIBED APPOINTEE AS AN EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT MAN, AN  
EXCELLENT ADMINISTRATOR AND PERSON ABOUT WHOM HE HAS NEVER HEARD  
ANYTHING OF A DEROGATORY NATURE CONCERNING APPOINTEE'S CHARACTER,  
REPUTATION, OR PERSONAL HABITS. USA MULLIGAN EMPHATICALLY  
STATED HE WOULD RECOMMEND APPOINTEE FOR ANY POSITION OF TRUST  
WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT.

END PAGE ONE

NOT RECORDED  
23 APR 6 1976

56 APR 22 1976

MI 161-459

PAGE TWO

IN MADISON, WIS., CLIFFORD W. KRUEGER, (R), WISCONSIN  
STATE SENATE, 12TH SENATE DISTRICT, ADVISED SA [REDACTED]  
JR. THAT HE HAS KNOWN APPOINTEE SINCE 1946. DURING THIS PERIOD OF  
TIME KRUEGER HAS FOUND LAIRD TO BE ONE OF THE FINEST MEN IN PUBLIC  
LIFE. BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, HE IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF EXCELLENT  
CHARACTER, INTEGRITY, REPUTATION, AND A MAN OF UNQUESTIONED  
LOYALTY TO THE U.S. BASED ON HIS VAST ASSOCIATION AND LAIRD'S  
ACTIVITIES BOTH IN STATE AND FEDERAL ACTIVITIES, KRUEGER WOULD  
HIGHLY RECOMMEND HIM FOR A POSITION OF TRUST.

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IN MADISON, WIS., GERALD D. LORGE, (R), WIS. STATE  
SENATOR, 14TH SENATE DISTRICT, ADVISED SA [REDACTED] THAT HE HAS KNOWN  
LAIRD SINCE 1946 WHEN THEY BOTH ENTERED STATE LEGISLATURE. DURING  
THIS PERIOD OF TIME, LORGE HAS FOUND LAIRD TO BE ONE OF THOSE RARE  
INDIVIDUALS WHO IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE ENJOYS AN  
EXCELLENT REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND INTEGRITY IN DEALING WITH  
INDIVIDUALS IN BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES AND OUT OF POLITICS.  
THERE IS NO QUESTION OF LOYALTY TO THE U.S. HE WOULD HIGHLY  
RECOMMEND FOR A POSITION OF TRUST.

*[Handwritten mark]*

CARL W. THOMPSON, (D), WIS. STATE SENATOR, 16TH SENATE  
END PAGE TWO

DISTRICT, MADISON, WIS., ADVISED SA [ ] THAT HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD SINCE 1952 WHEN HE ENTERED THE STATE SENATE. LAIRD WAS ONE OF THOSE RARE POLITICIANS WHO WAS ABLE TO COMMAND THE RESPECT OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS FROM EITHER POLITICAL PARTY. LAIRD IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF UNQUESTIONABLE REPUTATION, CHARACTER, AND LOYALTY. HE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND HIM FOR A POSITION OF TRUST.

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WILLIAM A. BABLITCH, (D), WIS. SENATOR, 24TH SENATE DISTRICT. ADVISED SA [ ] THAT HE HAS PERSONALLY KNOWN LAIRD FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE CURRENTLY HOLDS THE STATE SENATE SEAT WHICH LAIRD ONCE HELD. BABLITCH FOUND LAIRD TO BE OF EXCELLENT REPUTATION, CHARACTER, AND INTEGRITY. LAIRD IS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN ABLE TO EARN THE RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE OF INDIVIDUALS IN ANY WALK OF LIFE AND IS A GREAT LEADER. BABLITCH STATES THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF LAIRD'S LOYALTY TO THE U.S. BABLITCH WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND HIM FOR APPOINTMENT TO A HIGH OFFICE IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

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[ ] ADVISED SA GEORGE P. BAXTRUM, JR., THAT HE HAS BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH LAIRD SINCE ABOUT 1952 AND THAT HIS ASSOCIATION HAS

END PAGE THREE

BEEN STRICTLY POLITICAL. SINCE LAST BEING CONTACTED BY THE FBI, [ ] STILL RECOMMENDS LAIRD FAVORABLY CONCERNING HIS CHARACTER, REPUTATION, AND LOYALTY TO THE U.S. HE WOULD CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND HIM HIGHLY FOR ANY APPOINTED POSITION.

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[ ] (FORMER USA, EDW), [ ]  
[ ], ADVISED SA [ ] THAT HE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE SINCE 1968. [ ] STATED HE KNOWS THE APPOINTEE PRIMARILY ON A POLITICAL BASIS AND HAS THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR HIS QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTER. [ ] STATED HE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE APPOINTEE FOR A POSITION OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

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MILWAUKEE CO. JUDGE LOUIS J. CECI, MILWAUKEE CO. COURTHOUSE, 921 N. 9TH, ADVISED SA [ ] THAT HE HAS KNOWN THE APPOINTEE SINCE 1952 ON BOTH A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL BASIS. CECI STATED THAT THE APPOINTEE WAS AN EXTREMELY CAPABLE AND CONSCIENTIOUS PUBLIC SERVANT WITH AN EXCELLENT RECORD AS A CONGRESSMAN AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. HE STATED THE APPOINTEE IS A VERY LOYAL INDIVIDUAL OF HIGH CHARACTER. CECI ADVISED HE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE APPOINTEE FOR A POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

END PAGE FOUR



[REDACTED] FIGI'S, INC.,  
MARSHFIELD, WIS., ADVISED SA [REDACTED] THAT HE HAS KNOWN  
LAIRD FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 YEARS AND HAS HAD A GOOD DEAL OF RECENT  
CONTACT WITH LAIRD. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT SINCE LAIRD HAS LEFT  
GOVERNMENT SERVICE HE HAS APPEARED TO BE MORE RELAXED AND IS  
ENJOYING LIFE TO A DEGREE HE NEVER HAS BEFORE. [REDACTED] INDICATED  
THAT LAIRD CONTINUES TO POSSESS THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF INTEGRITY  
AND [REDACTED] CHARACTERIZED LAIRD AS A "STATESMAN RATHER THAN A  
POLITICIAN." [REDACTED] FURTHER STATED THAT LAIRD HAS ALWAYS PLACED HIS  
COUNTRY FIRST AND STATED THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WITH SINCERE  
CONVICTION. [REDACTED] ADVISED HE WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND LAIRD FOR ANY  
POSITION OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

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MAYOR RAYMOND TIPPELT, MARSHFIELD, WIS., ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN  
LAIRD FOR 35 YEARS AND THEY HAVE REMAINED CLOSE SOCIAL ACQUAINTANCES  
DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. MAYOR TIPPELT INDICATED THAT LAIRD  
POSSESSES THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF INTEGRITY OF ANY PERSON HE HAS  
EVER KNOWN AND CONSIDERS HIM A GREAT MAN. MAYOR TIPPELT KNOWS  
LAIRD TO BE A MAN OF SOLID CHARACTER AND CONVICTION AND WOULD HIGHLY  
RECOMMEND HIM FOR ANY POSITION OF TRUST IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.  
END PAGE FIVE

*Dist. Chief* *Eastern Dist 7 Wis*  
U.S. FEDERAL JUDGE JOHN W. REYNOLDS, MILWAUKEE, WIS., ADVISED

SA [ ] THAT HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS AND HE CONSIDERS LAIRD TO BE AN OUTSTANDING, DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT AND LOYAL AMERICAN. HE BELIEVES THAT LAIRD IS QUALIFIED AND CAPABLE OF HOLDING ANY POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE PRESIDENCY.

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U.S. FEDERAL JUDGE ROBERT W. WARREN, MILWAUKEE, WIS., ADVISED SA [ ] THAT THE GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS HELD BY LAIRD SPOKE FOR THEMSELVES AS FAR AS HIS HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND TRUSTWORTHINESS IS CONCERNED. IN ADDITION HE CONSIDERS LAIRD TO BE A VERY PERSONABLE, AGGRESSIVE, CAPABLE INDIVIDUAL AND A HARD WORKER. HE HAS THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR LAIRD AND HAS NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT LAIRD HOLDING ANY POSITION IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

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LEE SHERMAN DREYFUS, CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF WIS.-STEVENS POINT, WIS., ADVISED SA [ ] THAT HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD FOR OVER 10 YEARS AND CONSIDERS HIM A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND. HE ADVISED THAT HE HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF LAIRD BOTH AS A CONGRESSMAN AND DURING HIS TENURE AS THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. HE CONSIDERS LAIRD ONE OF THE MOST CAPABLE MEN WHO HAVE EVER SERVED IN GOVERNMENT. HE ADVISED LAIRD HAS A FIRM AND TOTAL

END PAGE SIX

*X*

COMMITMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE U.S. LAIRD'S EXPERIENCE AS A CONGRESSMAN AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH GIVES HIM TREMENDOUS INSIGHT INTO THE INNER WORKINGS OF GOVERNMENT. LAIRD IS PERSONABLE, HIGHLY RESPECTED, AND CONSIDERED TO BE AN INDIVIDUAL OF THE HIGHEST PERSONAL INTEGRITY. HE IS A MAN WHO IS DEVOTED TO THE U.S. AND WILLING TO SACRIFICE IN HIS PERSONAL AND FAMILY LIFE FOR HIS GOVERNMENT. LAIRD'S REPUTATION IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE CENTRAL WIS. AREA. HE ADVISED HE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RECOMMENDS LAIRD FOR ANY POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SERVICE OF THE U.S.

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ROBERT LEE RYBARCZYK, 5211 ARROW, SCHOFIELD, WIS., THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR MARATHON CO., WIS., ADVISED SA [REDACTED] THAT HE KNOWS LAIRD PERSONALLY BUT MAINLY BY REPUTATION. HE STATED THAT LAIRD OFFERED A TREMENDOUS SERVICE TO HIS CONSTITUENCY DURING HIS TERMS AS A CONGRESSMAN IN THE WIS. DELEGATION. HE STATED THAT LAIRD WAS RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF HIS CONSTITUENCY AND WAS A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL LEGISLATOR. HE ADVISED THAT AMONG MARATHON CO. DEMOCRATICS, LAIRD IS HIGHLY RESPECTED FOR HIS PAST GOVERNMENT SERVICE BOTH

END PAGE SEVEN

X

AS A CONGRESSMAN AND AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. HE POSSESSES AN EXTREMELY INCISIVE MIND AND IS A DELIBERATE AND THOROUGH THINKER. HE ADVISED THAT HE WOULD HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO RESERVATIONS IN RECOMMENDING LAIRD FOR ANY POSITION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE SERVICE OF THE U.S.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] REPUBLICAN PARTY, ADVISED SA  
[REDACTED] THAT HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS HAVING PERSONALLY SERVED AS A CAMPAIGN WORKER FOR HIM DURING HIS YEARS AS A CONGRESSMAN. HE STATES THAT SINCE LAIRD HAS LEFT THE CENTRAL WIS. AREA HE HAS HAD LITTLE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIM BUT KNOWS HIM BY REPUTATION TO BE AN INDIVIDUAL OF THE HIGHEST INTEGRITY. HE FEELS THAT LAIRD IS KNOWN AMONG WIS. REPUBLICANS AS AN EXTREMELY HARD WORKER WITH TOTAL DEDICATION FOR THE SERVICE OF THE U.S. LAIRD IS HONEST WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF PERSONAL INTEGRITY. HE ADVISED THAT LAIRD'S MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT MAKE HIM UNIQUELY CAPABLE OF HANDLING ANY POSITION IN GOVERNMENT. LAIRD HAS THE TOTAL RESPECT OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE MARATHON CO. REPUBLICAN PARTY AND STATE OF WIS. REPUBLICAN PARTY. HE ADVISED THAT HE COULD RECOMMEND LAIRD,  
END PAGE EIGHT

MI 161-459 PAGE NINE

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WITHOUT RESERVATION, FOR ANY POSITION OF TRUST IN GOVERNMENT.

JOSEPH KUCIREK (R), CO. JUDGE, BRANCH 2, MARATHON CO., WAUSAU, WIS., ADVISED SA [REDACTED] THAT HE HAS PERSONALLY KNOWN LAIRD FOR WELL OVER 15 YEARS BUT HAS HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH HIM FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. HE STATES THAT HE HAS HEARD OF LAIRD'S ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES TO GOVERNMENT DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND FEELS THAT LAIRD IS STILL CONTRIBUTING TO THE SERVICES OF THE U.S. HE STATES THAT HE HAS HEARD NOTHING IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WHICH WOULD CHANGE HIS ORIGINAL OPINION OF LAIRD, THAT BEING, HE IS AN EXTREMELY LOYAL AMERICAN WITH A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORKINGS OF GOVERNMENT. LAIRD IS A HARD-WORKING, DEDICATED INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A DELIBERATE THINKER. HE STATES THAT LAIRD'S PRIOR EXPERIENCES AS CONGRESSMAN AND ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT PLACE HIM IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO SERVE THE CITIZENS OF THE U.S. HE ADVISED THAT HE COULD GIVE, WITHOUT RESERVATION, A WHOLEHEARTED RECOMMENDATION OF LAIRD FOR ANY POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT.

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[REDACTED]  
END PAGE NINE



MI 161-459 PAGE TEN

*Dist. Rep.*

[REDACTED] FOR US CONGRESSMAN [REDACTED]

X

[REDACTED] (D), WAUSAU, WISCONSIN, ADVISED SA [REDACTED] THAT HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD FOR OVER 15 YEARS AND IN FACT RAN AGAINST HIM FOR A SEAT IN THE US CONGRESS IN 1968 AND LOST. HE ADVISED THAT LAIRD IS A CAPABLE AND HONEST INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS PROVIDED OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HIS CONSTITUENCY WHEN HE WAS A US CONGRESSMAN IN THE WISCONSIN DELEGATION AND TO THE CITIZENS OF THE US DURING HIS SERVICE AS THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. HE CONSIDERS LAIRD TO BE CONSCIENTIOUS, HARD WORKING AND A LOYAL AMERICAN. HE ADVISED THAT IF LAIRD WERE TO RE-ENTER THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT, HE WOULD PERFORM IN HIS USUAL OUTSTANDING MANNER. HE ADVISED THAT LAIRD'S DECISIONS ARE CAREFULLY WEIGHED AND THAT HE WOULD TEND TO GIVE POLITICAL CONSIDERATION TO THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS PLACED BEFORE HIM. HE ELABORATED BY SAYING THAT LAIRD, WHEN FACED WITH A DECISION, WOULD MAKE A CONSCIENCE DECISION AND WHEN THAT DECISION WAS MADE HE WOULD THEN CONSIDER THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS AS THEY WOULD APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT HE WAS SERVING.


END PAGE TEN

MI 161-459 PAGE ELEVEN

HE STATES THAT HE IN NO WAY BELIEVED THAT THE PARTISAN  
POLITICAL CONSIDERATION WOULD OUTWEIGH LAIRD'S JUDGMENT.  
HE ADVISED THAT SINCE LAIRD HAS LEFT THE GOVERNMENT, THE COMMENTS  
HE HAS HEARD CONCERNING HIS ACTIVITIES INDICATE THAT HE HAD  
THOROUGHLY INVOLVED HIMSELF IN HIS NEW LINE OF ENDEAVOR  
AND HAS PERFORMED IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER. HE ADVISED THAT  
HE COULD RECOMMEND LAIRD, WITHOUT RESERVATION, FOR ANY  
POSITION OF SERVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

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[REDACTED] SEVENTH DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC  
COMMITTEE, WAUSAU, WISCONSIN ADVISED SA [REDACTED] THAT HE  
HAS KNOWN LAIRD FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 YEARS AND BELIEVES  
HIM TO BE AN OBJECTIVE AND IMPARTIAL INDIVIDUAL. HE ADVISED  
THAT LAIRD IS THOROUGHLY COMMITTED TO HIS BELIEFS AS A MEMBER  
OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND THEREFORE HE HAS HAD SOME  
IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITH LAIRD BUT THEY ARE EXCLUSIVELY  
IN THE AREA OF PARTISAN POLITICS. HE ADVISED THAT LAIRD  
HAS OFFERED A TREMENDOUS SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC DURING  
HIS MANY YEARS OF PUBLIC LIFE. HE STATED THAT LAIRD, ALTHOUGH  
END PAGE ELEVEN



MI 161-459 PAGE TWELVE

A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY IS AN INDIVIDUAL THAT HE COULD RECOMMEND WITHOUT RESERVATION FOR ANY POSITION IN GOVERNMENT. HE CLOSED BY STATING THAT AMONG FELLOW DEMOCRATS, WHO WOULD NOT VOTE FOR LAIRD, HE, LAIRD, IS CONSIDERED TO BE A FINE AND WELL RESPECTED PUBLIC SPIRITED INDIVIDUAL.

[REDACTED] FIRST AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK, WAUSAU, WISCONSIN (R), ADVISED SA [REDACTED] THAT HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD FOR 20 YEARS AND BELIEVES HIM TO BE AN EXEMPLARY AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO HAS DEDICATED HIS ENTIRE ADULT LIFE TO PUBLIC SERVICE. HE ADVISED THAT HE HAS HAD LITTLE RECENT CONTACT WITH LAIRD OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, HAVING SEEN HIM ON FOUR OR FIVE OCCASIONS BUT ADVISED THAT LAIRD'S REPUTATION CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF HIGH RESPECT BY THE INDIVIDUALS THAT KNOW HIM. HE ADVISED THAT HE HAS HEARD NOTHING IN THE RECENT PAST WHICH WOULD CHANGE HIS OPINION OF LAIRD. HE ADVISED HIS OPINION CONTINUES TO BE THAT LAIRD IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF THE HIGHEST MORAL CHARACTER. HE STATED THAT LAIRD'S SERVICE AS A REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN FROM WISCONSIN

END PAGE TWELVE

AND IN VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT PROVIDED HIM WITH INSIGHT AND BACKGROUND WHICH COULD BE OF TREMENDOUS VALUE IN ANY FURTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICE. HE ADVISED THAT HE COULD WHOLEHEARTEDLY RECOMMEND LAIRD FOR ANY POSITION OF TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT.

EVERETT J. MOEN, 647 NORTH 77TH STREET, WAUWATOSA,  
WISCONSIN, ADVISED SA [REDACTED] HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD SINCE THE LATE 1950'S WHEN HE WAS A US CONGRESSMAN. HE KNEW HIM THROUGH HIS POSITION AS SECRETARY TREASURER OF THE WISCONSIN TELEPHONE COMPANY, A POSITION HE HELD FROM 1958 UNTIL 1971. SINCE 1971 HE HAS HAD NO PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE APPOINTEE. IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE APPOINTEE, WHICH WERE ONLY CONNECTED WITH TELEPHONE COMPANY BUSINESS AND OCCASIONALLY REPUBLICAN PARTY FUND RAISING MATTERS, HE HAS ALWAYS FOUND APPOINTEE TO BE A VERY SINCERE, KNOWLEDGEABLE, TRUSTWORTHY PERSON POSSESSING UNQUESTIONABLE LOYALTY. HE HAS KNOWN LAIRD'S FAMILY TO BE WELL OFF FINANCIALLY SO IT WAS NEVER NECESSARY FOR HIM TO BE "CUTE" REGARDING RAISING CAMPAIGN FUNDS. HE FEELS THAT LAIRD IS A WISE

END PAGE THIRTEEN

MI 161-459 PAGE FOURTEEN

CHOICE FOR A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT, THEREFORE, HE HIGHLY  
RECOMMENDS.

UACB, NO REPORT BEING SUBMITTED.

ADMINISTRATIVE: IT IS NOTED THAT MR. DREYFUS STATED  
IT WAS HIS HIGHLY INFORMED SUPPOSITION THAT MR. LAIRD WAS BEING  
CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF STATE BY PRESIDENT  
FORD.

END.

HOLD



NY 293

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR022 NY PLAIN

11:40 P.M. URGENT FEBRUARY 26, 1976

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ADIC, NEW YORK (161-2698) (P)

MELVIN LAIRD, SPI, BUDED: FEB. 26, 1976

RE BUREAU TELETYPE, FEB. 23, 1976.

EMPLOYMENT

READER'S DIGEST

PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK

ON FEB. 24, 1976, [REDACTED] PERSONNEL, READER'S

DIGEST, ADVISED SA [REDACTED] THEIR FILES SHOW THE  
APPOINTEE HAS BEEN A SENIOR COUNSEL FOR READER'S DIGEST SINCE  
AUGUST 1, 1975 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. STATED COULD HAVE BEEN  
ON A MONTHLY RETAINER BASIS PRIOR TO THAT, BUT WOULD HAVE  
NO RECORD FOR THIS IN THEIR OFFICES IN PLEASANTVILLE.

ON FEB. 25, 1976, DE WITT WALLACE, FOUNDER AND CHIEF  
OWNER, READER'S DIGEST, NOW SEMI-RETIRED, ADVISED SA [REDACTED]  
HAS MET APPOINTEE ONLY ONCE, AND THAT WAS FOR BRIEF VISIT  
ABOUT A MONTH AGO. NOT SURE HOW LONG APPOINTEE HAS BEEN  
CONNECTED WITH READER'S DIGEST. HOWEVER, STATED APPOINTEE  
WORKED CLOSELY WITH AL COLE, OF READER'S DIGEST STAFF, AND COLE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep. A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

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b7c

MR. STEEL  
RM. 3821

b6  
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161-579257

NOT  
23 APR 6 1976

NY 2/27  
Plum advised  
Al Cole not AM  
said he lived in  
2/24 - 51 Chanc  
foreigner hotel to follow.

7266  
56 APR 22 1976

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gas

PAGE TWO NY 161-2698

HAS HIGH REGARD FOR APPOINTEE. ADDED KNOWS APPOINTEE ALMOST COMPLETELY BY REPUTATION AND THIS REPUTATION EXTREMELY HIGH. COULD NOT COMMENT FURTHER AS HE REALLY DOES NOT KNOW APPOINTEE.

ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT HOBART LEWIS, CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR IN CHIEF, READER'S DIGEST, ON FEB. 25, 1976, NEGATIVE. LEWIS PRESENTLY ON VACATION AND NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL AT LEAST MARCH 1, 1976.  
END.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1976

TO  
TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR001 NH PLAIN

9:24AM URGENT MARCH 1, 1976 SAD

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: NEW HAVEN (161-1986) (RUC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY . BUDED : FEB. 26, 1976, *STEEL*  
WITHOUT FAIL *161-5792-58*

REWFO NITEL, FEB. 24, 1976 AND NH TEL, FEB. 26, 1976.

ON MARCH 1, 1976, [REDACTED]

INSILCO CORPORATION, MERIDEN, CT., ADVISED HE WAS APPOINTEE'S

[REDACTED] WHEN LAIRD WAS SECRETARY

OF DEFENSE. HE HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE PERSONAL ASSOCIATION SINCE  
THAT DATE. REGARDS LAIRD AS PERSONAL FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE. HAS  
HIGHEST REGARD FOR LAIRD'S IMPECCABLE CHARACTER AND CREDENTIALS. *S*

LAIRD IS MAN OF THE HIGHEST INTEGRITY AND LOYALTY. [REDACTED]

BELIEVES THAT IT WAS ONLY THOROUGH THE PERSONAL SACRIFICES AND  
DILIGENCE OF MELVIN LAIRD THAT THE PENTAGON WAS NOT DRAWN INTO

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL. LAIRD ENJOYS AND OUTSTANDING REPUTATION  
IN BOTH THE BUSINESS AND MILITARY COMMUNITIES. HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
AND MOTIVES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABOVE SUSPICION. [REDACTED] KNOWS

OF NOTHING WHICH MIGHT REFLECT UNFAVORABLY ON THE APPOINTEE AND  
GAVE HIM HIS HIGHEST UNQUALIFIED RECOMMENDATION.

END

23 APR 6 1976

*APD*  
*7264*  
56 APR 22 1976

*161-5792-58*

*[Signature]*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1976

TELETYPE

NR002 NH PLAINTEXT

11:30 AM URGENT FEBRUARY 26, 1976 MAT

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: NEW HAVEN (161-1986) (P) LP

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPI. BUDED: FEB. 26, 1976.

PERFOMITEL, FEB. 24, 1976.

ON FEB. 25, 1976, RECEPTIONIST, INSILCO CORP., MERIDEN, CT.

ADVISED [REDACTED] ASSOCIATE OF APPOINTEE, IN NEW YORK CITY ON BUSINESS BUT AVAILABLE FEB. 26, 1976, AT 8:30 AM FOR INTERVIEW.

ON FEB. 26, 1976, [REDACTED] ADVISED [REDACTED] NOT RETURNING TO CONNECTICUT BUT TRAVELLING TO OHIO ON BUSINESS. HE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW UNTIL MAR. 1, 1976, AM. SHE ADVISED [REDACTED] SOMETIMES CALLS IN FOR MESSAGES AND HE WOULD BE ADVISED TO CALL WHO.

IN EVENT [REDACTED] CONTACTS WHO, RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WILL IMMEDIATELY BE FURNISHED BUREAU BY TELETYPE. UACB, WHO WILL INTERVIEW [REDACTED] MAR. 1, 1976, AT MERIDEN, CT.

SPIN.

END

AJM FBIHQ CLR TU

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. A.D.-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MR. STEEL  
RM. 3821

b6  
b7C

161-5790-59

23 APR 6 1976

56 APR 22 1976

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR 02 SD PLAIN

FFR 26/1976

12:50AM FEBRUARY 26, 1976 NITEL TUB

TELETYPE

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: SAN DIEGO (161-771) (RUCY)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED FEBRUARY 26,  
1976.

b6  
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RE WFO TELETYPE DATED FEBRUARY 24, 1976.

NEWSPAPER, 7776 IVANHOE AVENUE, LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA,

ADVISED HE HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH APPOINTEE

SINCE 1960. ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN VERY CLOSE IN BOTH

POLITICAL AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES. [ ] STATED HE

[ ] APPOINTEE

AND BELIEVES APPOINTEE HAS TREMENDOUS CAPABILITY WHICH

SHOULD BE USED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. [ ]

STATES HE HOLDS APPOINTEE IN HIGHEST REGARD IN ALL RESPECTS,

INCLUDING APPOINTEE'S FAMILY, AND FAVORABLY RECOMMENDED

APPOINTEE FOR ANY POSITION OF TRUST, INTEGRITY AND

RESPONSIBILITY.

ON FEBRUARY 25, 1976, BARRY SHILLITO, PRESIDENT,

TELEDYNE-RYAN AERONAUTICAL COMPANY, 2701 HARBOR DRIVE,

NOT RECORDED

23 APR 6 1976

56 APR 22 1976

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep.-A.D.-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MR. STEEL  
Rm. 3821

News Service

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b7C

161-5792-60

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]



SD 161-771

PAGE TWO

SAN DIEGO, ADVISED HE HAS BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH APPOINTEE SINCE 1968 AND HOLDS APPOINTEE IN HIGHEST REGARD IN EVERY RESPECT. SHILLITO STATED HE CONSIDERS APPOINTEE TO HAVE GOOD HEALTH, GOOD PERSONAL HABITS, HIGHEST INTEGRITY AND LOYALTY AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. SHILLITO SAID HE WAS IN VERY CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH APPOINTEE WHILE SERVING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WITH APPOINTEE. THAT CLOSE ASSOCIATION HAS CONTINUED TO TODAY AND SHILLITO BELIEVES APPOINTEE TO HAVE TREMENDOUS ABILITY AND POTENTIAL IN EVERY RESPECT. HE ENCOURAGED THAT APPOINTEE SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN TOP GOVERNMENT SERVICE BECAUSE OF OUTSTANDING QUALIFICATIONS.

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SHILLITO AND [ ] WERE BOTH OUT OF THE CITY DURING SAN DIEGO'S ATTEMPT TO LOCATE FOR INTERVIEW AND WERE TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THROUGH THEIR PRIVATE SECRETARIES TO MEET BUDED.

NO REPORT, UACB.

END.

PLS HOLD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1976  
TELETYPE

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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

SF 580

NR 004 SF PLAIN

12:40 PM URGENT 2/26/76 MCC

O: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (161-28010) (RUC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPIN, BUDED FEBRUARY 26, 1976 WITHOUT FAIL

RE WFO TELETYPE TO BUREAU, FEBRUARY 24, 1976.

DAVID PACKARD, PRESIDENT, HEWLETT PACKARD, 1501 PAGE MILL ROAD, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, INTERVIEWED TODAY AND RECOMMENDED APPOINTEE FAVORABLY WITHOUT RESERVATION OR QUALIFICATION.

PACKARD STATED THAT HE IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH MELVIN LAIRD BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

PACKARD STATED THAT HE HAD VIRTUALLY DAILY CONTACT WITH LAIRD BETWEEN JANUARY 1969 AND JANUARY 1972 WHILE SERVING IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT UNDER LAIRD.

PACKARD STATED THAT HE HAS RESPECT FOR APPOINTEE'S ABILITIES AND CERTAINLY HAS NO REASON TO QUESTION APPOINTEE'S CHARACTER, LOYALTY, OR ASSOCIATIONS. PACKARD CONCLUDED BY HIGHLY RECOMMENDING THE APPOINTEE FOR A POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

END.

STEEL  
3821

161-5792-61

NOT RECORDED

APR 6 - 1976

56 APR 22 1976

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1976  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

2/26/76  
15:18 PM URGENT 2/26/76 JAG  
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (161-5792)

ALEXANDRIA

FROM: BALTIMORE (161-4532) -RUC-

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD; SPIN; BUDED FEBRUARY 26, 1976.

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPE TO BALTIMORE FEBRUARY 19, 1976; WFO NITEL TO BALTIMORE, FEBRUARY 20, 1976.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

ALL PERSONS CONTACTED WERE ADVISED OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVACY ACT AND DID NOT REQUEST CONFIDENTIALITY. ALEXANDRIA HAS BEEN ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP TO HANDLE REVIEW OF HIS FILE.

ON FEBRUARY 24, 1976, SA [REDACTED] CONTACTED

[REDACTED] MARYLAND STATE POLICE (MSP), PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND, WHO ADVISED SHE HAD NO RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH THE APPOINTEE, HIS WIFE, BARBARA MASTERS LAIRD, [REDACTED].

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ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, SA [REDACTED] REVIEWED THE COMPUTERIZED MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION RECORDS FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND, GLEN BURNIE, MARYLAND, WHICH INDICATED THAT THE APPOINTEE, DATE OF BIRTH, SEPTEMBER 1, 1922, HAD A CLEAR DRIVING RECORD WITH TOTAL CURRENT POINTS OF 0.

161-5792-62  
NOT RECORDED  
23 APR 6 1976

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56 APR 22 1976

PAGE TWO BA 161-453E

01 FEBRUARY 23, 1976, SA [REDACTED] DETERMINED  
FROM REVIEW OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION (MVA)  
RECORDS, APPOINTEE'S [REDACTED],

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RECORDS, [REDACTED] DID NOT HAVE DRIVER'S LICENSES IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND. MVA CHECK BY [REDACTED] REVEALED THAT THE

APPOINTEE'S WIFE, BARBARA MASTERS LAIRD, BORN MARCH 9, 1922,  
HAD A CLEAR DRIVING RECORD WITH TOTAL CURRENT POINTS OF 0.  
THE MVA CHECK REVEALED THAT THE APPOINTEE, [REDACTED]

HE APPOINTEE'S

b6  
b7C

THE DEFENSE CENTRAL INDEX OF INVESTIGATIONS (DCII),  
A DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) INDEX TO SECURITY, CRIMINAL AND  
APPLICANT INVESTIGATIONS ALSO CHECKED THROUGH A REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THAT AGENCY BY SA [REDACTED] AT FORT MEADE, MARYLAND.

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PAGE THREE BA 161-4588

ON FEBRUARY 26, 1976, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DCII ADVISED  
THAT INFORMATION POSSIBLY IDENTIFIABLE TO THE APPOINTEE  
IS CONTAINED IN THE FILES OF THE NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE (NIS)  
U.S. NAVY, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. ALEXANDRIA WILL HANDLE.

END



FBI

Date: 2/26/76

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL

(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (MAIL) AND  
SAC, CHARLOTTE (161-637)

FROM: SAC, WFO (161-5232) (P)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD. SPECIAL INQUIRY. BUDED FEBRUARY 26, 1976,  
WITHOUT FAILRE BUREAU TELETYPE TO WFO DATED FEBRUARY 19, 1976, AND  
WFO TELEPHONE CALL TO CHARLOTTE, FEBRUARY 26, 1976.BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT VERY EXPEDITIOUS  
SPECIAL INQUIRY TO BRING UP TO DATE A SPECIAL INQUIRY  
CONDUCTED CONCERNING LAIRD IN DECEMBER, 1968. HE IS BEING  
CONSIDERED FOR A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT, POSITION NOT  
INDICATED.

WFO INVESTIGATION REVEALS LAIRD HAS A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND LAIRD'S [REDACTED]

①-Bureau  
1-Tickler  
1-WFORFQ: smv  
(3)

23 APR 6 1976

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

56 APR 22 1976

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO WFO 161-5232

b6  
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LEAD. CHARLOTTE. AT CHAPEL HILL AND CHEROKEE, NORTH  
CAROLINA. WILL VERIFY RESIDENCE OF LAIRD [REDACTED]  
AND SECURE POLICE CHECKS.

SUTEL RESULTS TO BUREAU.

END.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1976  
TELETYPE

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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

NR 212 CI PLAIN

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8 02 PM NITEL 2/26/76 GEE

TO DIRECTOR

FROM CINCINNATI (161-1883) (RUC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPECIAL INQUIRY; BUDED: FEBRUARY 26, 1976

MR. STEPHEN  
J.M. 6821

JD  
DT

RE CINCINNATI TELCAL TO BUREAU, FEBRUARY 26, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 26, 1976, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CENTRAL INDEX FILES, DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

CLEARANCE OFFICE, DISCO, COLUMBUS, OHIO, ADVISED THAT MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SSAN 392-14-5736, IS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING CURRENT CLEARANCES BASED ON A BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION BY THE FBI ON JANUARY 2, 1969:

~~SECRET~~ - JANUARY 20, 1976, EMPLOYING AGENCY, PURALATOR, INCORPORATED, RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY

~~SECRET~~ - FEBRUARY 28, 1975, EMPLOYING AGENCY, COMMUNICATIONS SATELITE CORPORATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~ - FEBRUARY 6, 1975, EMPLOYING AGENCY, NORTHWEST AIRLINES, INCORPORATED, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.  
END.

NOT RECORDED  
23 APR 6 1976

H O L D

56 APR 22 1976

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR004 MP PLAIN

1125PM NITEL FEBRUARY 27, 1976

TO DIRECTOR, FBI 161-5792

FROM MINNEAPOLIS 161-NEW

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR., SPIN, BUDED FEBRUARY 26, 1976.

RE FBIHQ TELE CALL TO MP FEBRUARY 27, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 27, 1976, [REDACTED]

MAC/CRAF, SECURITY PROGRAM, NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES, MINNEAPOLIS -  
ST. PAUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, ADVISED THAT  
MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, DATE OF BIRTH SEPTEMBER 1, 1922, SOCIAL SECURITY  
ACCOUNT NUMBER 392-14-5736 IS PRESENTLY A MEMBER OF THE NORTHWEST  
ORIENT AIRLINES BOARD OF DIRECTORS. HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS ON MAY 27, 1974, AND ON FEBRUARY 6, 1975, HE WAS GRANTED  
A ~~SECRET~~ CLEARANCE BY THE CHIEF OFFICE OF INDUSTRIAL SECURITY, DEFENSE  
CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT NORTHWEST AIRLINES COMMUNICATES WITH LAIRD  
THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

READERS DIGEST, 1730 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, SUITE 212, WASHINGTON,  
D.C., 20006, TELEPHONE NUMBER 202-223-1642.

INFORMATION REGARDING LAIRD'S ~~SECRET~~ CLEARANCE CAN BE OBTAINED IF  
NEEDED THROUGH CHIEF OFFICE OF INDUSTRIAL SECURITY, DEFENSE CONTRACT  
ADMINISTRATION SERVICES, REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 1136 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SEATTLE

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MR. STEEL  
RM. 3821

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161-5792-65

NOT RECORDED  
23 APR 6 1976

56 APR 22 1976

PAGE TWO MP 161-NEW

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, 63171.

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[ ] ADVISED THAT NORTHWEST AIRLINES RECORDS DO NOT SHOW  
THE TITLE "JUNIOR" AS BEING PART OF LAIRD'S NAME.

[ ] WAS ADVISED OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974  
AND WF ADVISED HE DID NOT DESIRE HIS NAME TO BE KEPT ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.  
END.



FBI

Date: 3/3/76

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

Assoc. Dir.	_____
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Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (161-5792)  
 FROM: SAC, ALEXANDRIA (161-3446) (RUC)

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD  
 SPECIAL INQUIRY  
 BUDED: 2/26/76 WOF

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 b7c

Re Butel to AX 2/19/76, and AX teletype to Bureau  
 2/25/76.

NIS RECORD CHECK

SC [ ] caused a search to be made of the  
 files of the Naval Investigative Service (NIS) Headquarters,  
 and was advised on 3/2/76 that the files contained no record  
 concerning the appointee.

161-5792-66  
 NOT RECORDED  
 23 APR 6 1976

1- Bureau  
 1- Alexandria  
 TAB:smb  
 (2)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

56 APR 22 1976

1 - Mr. Fehl  
1 - Mr. Steel  
1 - Mr. Doohar

March 4, 1976

BY LIAISON

b6  
b7c

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear [Redacted]:

*Photo*  
CC TO: *White House*  
REQ. REC'D *5-18-77*  
MAY 20 1977  
ANS BY: [Redacted] *JH*

In accordance with a request received from you on February 19, 1976, an investigation has been conducted concerning Mr. Melvin Robert Laird. Transmitted herewith is a summary memorandum containing the results of this investigation.

An applicant-type investigation was conducted concerning Mr. Laird in 1969, the results of which have been previously furnished to you. The enclosed summary memorandum covers the period since January, 1969. *5*

Information has been received indicating checks of the files of the Internal Revenue Service; United States Secret Service; Bureau of Personnel Investigations, Civil Service Commission; and the Naval Investigative Service, Naval Intelligence Command, have not been completed. When the results of these checks have been received, you will be advised.

Sincerely yours

*Clarence M. Kelley*  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

REC-36

*161-5792-68*  
NOT RECORDED  
23 APR 6 1976

DELIVERED BY LIAISON  
ON *4-1-76*

Enclosure

MPD:jas  
(5)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR  
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

- Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_
- Admin. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

RETURN TO MR. DOOHER, ROOM 3125

GPO: 1975 O - 569-920

56 APR 22 1976

*Photo Encl*  
MAR 3 5 14 PM '76  
SPECIAL INQUIRY  
FEB 13 1976  
*MKS*  
*ok to disseminate*

MAR 3 4 16 PM '76  
REC'D  
CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW  
FBI

*Photo Encl*  
CC TO  
REQ. REC'D 11-15-81  
NOV 20 1981  
ANS.  
BY: *WRT/STL*

*ok to*  
*per*  
*letter dated 11/26/92*

MAR 5 10 37 AM '76  
REC'D  
CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW  
FBI

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MAR 4 9 38 AM '76

RECEIVED  
ASST. DIRECTOR  
SPECIAL  
INVESTIGATIVE

RECEIVED  
MAR 15 1976

DEC 17 2004

ANS BY *MMW/KHH*

[REDACTED]

NOTE: Mr. Laird, aged 53, Senior Counsellor, Reader's Digest, Washington, D. C., is former Secretary of Defense and former Counsellor to the President for Domestic Affairs. He is being considered for a Presidential appointment, position unknown. Investigation concerning Mr. Laird favorable, except 1971 applicant-type investigation of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Mr. Laird, revealed [REDACTED] of the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam in 1970 while attending college. [REDACTED] was arrested on charge of desecration of American flag. Departmental applicant investigation of [REDACTED] in February, 1976, favorable. In addition, Laird [REDACTED]  
Four agency checks outstanding.



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

DEC 13 1984

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD

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b7C

The information contained in this summary memorandum supplements information contained in an expanded name check dated November 15, 1984.

Agency Checks

Information has been received from the United States Attorney's Office, Baltimore, Maryland, indicating its files contain an index card reference to a case titled [redacted] versus Melvin Laird," and indicates that a "preliminary injunction United States Army" was filed concerning this case on September 29, 1969, and that a petition of habeas corpus was granted. The reference is incomplete; however, it does indicate the attorney handling this matter was J. Frederick Motz, who is the present United States Attorney, Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Motz has advised he recalled the case in general terms and believes it involved Mr. Laird as a respondent in his official capacity as Secretary of Defense. Mr. Motz stated that he believes the plaintiff, [redacted] was seeking an early release from the military. Mr. Motz also advised that to his knowledge Mr. Laird was never the subject of a suit filed against him personally.

A check of the records of the United States District Court, Baltimore, Maryland, indicate that 36 separate cases were filed against Mr. Laird, either as Secretary of Defense or in his name. The records also indicate that all 36 cases were filed and dispositions entered prior to 1979. All files concerning these cases have been transferred to the General Services Administration, General Archives Division, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where a release from a federal district judge is required for access to the files.

George Beall, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland during the late 1960's, was interviewed for information concerning these cases. Mr. Beall advised that to the best of his recollection these cases involved Mr. Laird in his official capacity as Secretary of Defense and were brought by conscientious objectors or those seeking early release from the military. Mr. Beall stated he knew of no cases in which personal suits were brought against Mr. Laird.



1 PHOTOCOPY TO OPM  
RR 7-15-04

NOV 30 2004

ANS BY *[Signature]*

1 - Mr. Fehl  
1 - Mr. Steel  
1 - Mr. Doohar

March 8, 1976

BY LIAISON

b6  
b7C

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear [Redacted]

Reference is made to my letter dated March 4, 1976, which furnished you a summary memorandum containing the results of investigation concerning Mr. Melvin Robert Laird.

Information has been received from the Bureau of Personnel Investigations, Civil Service Commission; United States Secret Service; and the Naval Investigative Service, Naval Intelligence Command, indicating their files contain either no record or no additional pertinent information concerning Mr. Laird.

A check of the records of the Internal Revenue Service has not been completed. When the results of this check are received, you will be advised.

Sincerely yours,

*Clarence M. Kelley*  
Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

DELIVERED BY LIAISON  
EX 319/26/27

161-5792-69

NOT RECORDED  
23 APR 6 1976

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MPD:jas  
(5)

56 APR 22 1976

TELETYPE UNIT ☐ RETURN TO MR. DOOHER, ROOM 3125

GPO : 1975 O - 569-920

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.:  
 Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

RTT

6  
3

(LAIRD)

MADISON, WIS. (UPI) -- THE MADISON CAPITAL TIMES TODAY REPORTED THE FBI IS CONDUCTING SECURITY CHECKS ON FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY KEVIN LAIRD, APPARENTLY FOR APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF STATE PRESIDENT FORD.

THE CAPITAL TIMES SAID FORD VIEWED CURRENT SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AS A "POLITICAL LIABILITY IN HIS CAMPAIGN TO WIN THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION" AGAINST RONALD REAGAN.

THE SECURITY CHECKS WERE BEING CONDUCTED ON LAIRD, AN OLD AND HOUSE COLLEAGUE OF FORD'S, IN WASHINGTON AND WISCONSIN, THE TIMES EDITOR ELLIOTT HANANISS WROTE.

THE REPORT QUOTED SOURCES AS SAYING FORD WAS ANXIOUS TO "REASSURED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN FAVOR OF LAIRD".

LAIRD, 55, IS NOW A SENIOR COUNSELOR FOR NATIONAL INT'L AFFAIRS FOR READER'S DIGEST AND HAS BEEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE PHILLIPS OIL CO.

UPI 03-02 03128 PMS

161-5792-72  
NOT RECORDED

23 APR 6 1976

*[Handwritten signature]*

56 APR 22 1976

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

MAILED

MAY 25 1977

NAME CHECK

MR. AND MRS. MELVIN R. LAIRD

Mrs. Laird, not further identified, is not known to have been the subject of an investigation conducted by this Bureau.

*Melvin R. Laird*  
Mr. Laird, who you advised is affiliated with The Reader's Digest, 1730 Rhode Island Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., may be identical with one Melvin Robert Laird, born September 1, 1922, at Omaha, Nebraska. He was the subject of applicant-type investigations conducted by the FBI in late 1968 and 1976. Copies of the FBI summary memoranda dated January 2, 1969, and March 4, 1976, with Internal Revenue Service memorandum dated March 12, 1976, concerning Melvin Robert Laird, are attached.

(161-5792-28,68,70)

The Washington Capital News Service on March 3, 1976, quoted the Madison (Wisconsin) Capital Times as reporting that President Gerald Ford was considering Laird to replace Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and identified Laird as a Senior Counselor for National and International Affairs for The Reader's Digest and a Director of the Phillips Oil Company.

(161-5792-72)

The central files of the FBI, including the records of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning the captioned individuals based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

Enclosures - 3

b6  
b7C

NOTE: Per request of [redacted] for Mr. Robert J. Lipshutz, Counsel to the President.

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

EJK:mel (4)

REC-105

4-33

DEAN

101-5792-73

3 MAY 31 1977

DELIVERED BY LIAISON  
ON [redacted]

JUN 1 1977

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Records Branch

5-6, 1977

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.  
☐ Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg.  
☐ Forward to File Review ☐  
☐ Attention ☐  
☐ Return to ☐ 5224 JEH  
Supervisor Room Ext.

## Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted Search Not Applied  
☐ All Reference (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive Search  
☐ Nonsubversive Search  
☒ Main *Sum & Recent Secs* References Only

## Special Instructions:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject LAIRD, MELVIN Robert Jr

Birthdate &amp; Place \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities Off: Suite 212 1730 R I Ave NWR# 397 Date 5-6 Searcher Initials 105

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_ MAY 9 1977

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
ND	9-49576	I
ND	9-51187	I
ND	9-51977	
ND	9-52130	I
ND	9-52451	
NP	62-104206	I
	161-5792	I
	161-5792-46	Sum 3-13-75-I
ND	9-0-21860	
	100-448092-764	770 I
↓	151-4651-16	Sum in law
	Melvin	
ND	9-51136	
ND	9-51163	
ND	9-51245	
ND	9-51517	
ND	9-55113	
ND	9-56836	
NI	26-399527	



## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Laird, Melvin R.

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 347 Date 5-6 Searcher Initial 105Prod. NR

## FILE NUMBER

## SERIAL

Melvin (CONT)

NP I	63-16347	
NP I	95-152334	b3
NP I	89-2517	b7E
NP I	176-34	Doc 4-13-71
NP I	94-3-4-221-1169	

L	

NP I	

Mel (VAR)SEMelvin Robert (Bu)NP I 62-104206-124 Sum. 8-14-74\* I 161-5792-28 Sum. 1-2-69I-68 Sum. 3-4-762/16

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Records Branch

b6

b7C

19

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.  
☐ Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg.  
☐ Forward to File Review ☐  
☐ Attention ☐ 5224 JEH  
☐ Return to ☐ Supervisor Room Ext.

## Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted Search **Not** Applied  
☐ All Reference (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive Search  
☐ Nonsubversive Search  
☒ Main Sum. & Ref. See References Only

## Special Instructions:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject LAIRD, MELVIN R. MRS.  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# 397 Date 5-6 Searcher Initials 165  
 Prod. 9 1977

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

NP I 62-104206-5  
 NP I 151-4651-16  
 BARBARA MASTERS (AKA)  
 SI  
 MASTERS, BARBARA (WIFE)  
 SI

10 1977

048

OCTOBER 26, 1984

UNCLAS

PRIORITY

FM048PP BA WFSDE HQ H0048 FH0YUWP 261540Z OCT 84

FM DIRECTOR FBI (161-5792)

TO FBI WASHINGTON FIELD (161-5232) PRIORITY

FBI BALTIMORE (161-4588) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY-EXPANDED NAME CHECK,  
BUDED: 11/1/84 WITHOUT FAIL. (B)

BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT EXPEDITE EXPANDED NAME  
CHECK REGARDING CAPTIONED INDIVIDUAL FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINT-  
MENT, POSITION NOT INDICATED.

BORN SEPTEMBER 1, 1922, IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA; RESIDES  
5703 KIRKWOOD DRIVE, BETHESDA, MARYLAND; EMPLOYED AT READER'S  
DIGEST ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.; AND HAS SSAN 392-14-5736.

b6  
b7c

TRR/TOR (2) 10/26/84 5161/6 4228  
RETURN TO [REDACTED] ROOM 5161

ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
IDENTIFICATION CENTER

2037776  
OCT 26 1984

NOT RECORDED  
FEB 5 1985

53 JUN 26 1985

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE

2

## CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGETWO DE HQ 0048 UNCLAS

20 CHECK INDICES AND ELSUR FILES BASED UPON AVAILABLE INFORMA-  
18 TION CONCERNING APPOINTEE, IF UTILIZING MAJOR CASE INFORMATION  
SYSTEM, OCIS OR ISIS ALSO CHECK THOSE DATA BASES. PROMPTLY  
SUTEL RESULTS {POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE} BY TELETYPE SUMMARY AND IF  
16 POSITIVE, FOLLOW WITH COPIES OF DOCUMENTS BY AIRTEL.

14 ALSO CONTACT THE U. S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO DETERMINE IF  
THERE IS ANY INDICATION OF FEDERAL PROSECUTIVE ACTION {CIVIL OR  
CRIMINAL, IN CLOSED OR CURRENT FILES} CONCERNING APPOINTEE.

12 NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS REQUESTED AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER  
OFFICES TO SUBMIT RESULTS BY BUDED BY SUMMARY TELETYPE SUITABLE  
10 FOR DISSEMINATION, NO REPORT NECESSARY.

SPIN

8 BT

I

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Records/Operations Sections

b6  
b7c

Oct 25, 1984

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543, TL# 115  
☒ Service Unit, 4654, TL# 225  
☐ Special File Room, 5991, TL# 122  
☒ Forward to File Review 5447 TL# 143  
☒ Attention   
☒ Return to REID 5161 233-4228 4228  
 Supervisor, Room, TL#, Ext.

Type of Search Requested: (Check One)

- ☐ Restricted Search (Active Index - 5 & 20)  
☐ Restricted Search (Active & Inactive Index - 5 & 30)  
☒ Unrestricted (Active & Inactive Index)

Special Instructions: (Check One)

- ☒ All References (Security & Criminal)  
☐ Security Search  
☐ Criminal Search  
☐ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☒ Buildup ☒ Variations  
☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_

Subject MELVIN LAIRD (MN) Robert

Birthdate & Place 9/1/22 OMAHA, NE.

Address 5903 Kirkwood Dr.

Bethesda, Md.

Localities SSAN 392-14-5736

emp: Readers Digest - Senior Consultant

R# 1 Date 10/25/84 Initials GH/L

Prod. 7-10

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
<u>5/77</u>	<u>141-5792 (ur name)</u>	
<u>NDRI-I</u>	<u>9-56836</u>	
<u>NP-I</u>	<u>62-104206</u>	
<u>NP-I</u>	<u>63-16347</u>	
<u>NP-I</u>	<u>89-2517</u>	
<u>NP-I (prev name check)</u>	<u>77-76-34</u>	
<u>NP-I</u>	<u>58-9240-461 p. 19</u>	
<u>L NP-I</u>	<u>- 91388.71</u>	b3
<u>UTD</u>	<u>62-9798-A</u>	b7E
<u>-</u>	<u>Evening Star (ur) 2/8/80</u>	
<u>UTD</u>	<u>62-168771-538</u>	
<u>UTD</u>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	
<u>UTD</u>	<u>94-3-4-221-1169</u>	
<u>UTD</u>	<u>100-438904-476</u>	
<u>UTD</u>	<u>100-446761-30-118</u>	
<u>UTD</u>	<u>- 98X</u>	
<u>UTD</u>	<u>100-447766-64</u>	
<u>UTD</u>	<u>100-448092-777</u>	

OCT 25 1984



NUMEROUS REFERENCE.

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: David, Melvin

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 1Date 10/25Searcher mmh

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Prod. 2716FILE NUMBERSERIAL

u7D

100-463822 2

u7D

100-469041-17

b3

b7E

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Ask Post Lines I should

b3

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u7D

u7D

u7D

100-3252

u7D

100-

ND±

183-1600-5

u7D

[Redacted]

u7D

Melvin R.

u7D

161-5792-46

u7D

Summary 3/13/75

u7D

9-0-21860

u7D

62-40772-396

u7D

62-87819-845

u7D

- 911

-NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Raird, Melvin

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 62-110910 Date 10/20 Searcher \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial gjt/rProd. 2+15

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
<u>Melvin R</u>	<u>cont</u>
<u>62-110910 - 3</u>	
<u>62-111782 - A</u>	
<u>Wash Daily News 1/27/70</u>	
<u>62-113228-24 - 111</u>	b3 b7E
<u>[Redacted]</u>	
<u>No Paper doc 8/24/64</u>	
<u>[Redacted]</u>	
<u>100-7324-201</u>	
<u>100-448092-491</u>	
<u>- 764</u>	
<u>770</u>	
<u>[Redacted]</u>	
<u>[Redacted]</u>	b3 b7E
<u>[Redacted]</u>	
<u>[Redacted]</u>	
<u>[Redacted]</u>	
<u>151-4657-14</u>	
<u>Melvin Robert</u>	
<u>161-5792-68</u>	
<u>Summary 3/4/76</u>	
<u>- 28</u>	
<u>Summary 1/2/69</u>	

## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: SAIRD, Melvin

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 1Date 12/25Searcher  
Initial 12/25Prod. 12+6

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

	<u>Melvin Robert Cont</u>	
NP I	62-104206 - 124	
	Summary 8/14/84	
<del>I</del>	161-5792 - 73	you have
	Robert	
NR	87-160624	1/27/84
NR	87-157808	b3
NR	147-27279	b7E -
	100-4340848 - 2	
UTD		
UTD	157-24019 - 10	
	Melvin, Associate	
NDT	I 9-51136	
NP I	9-51163	
NP I	9-51245	2x pickup
NP I	9-51517	
NP I	9-55113	
NR	26-399527	
NP I	95-152334	b3
		b7E
UTD	9-0-17752	
UTD		
UTD		

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Laird Meloni

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 62Date 10/25Searcher MTVInitial MTVProd. 8 + 11

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

	<u>Meloni R. Inactive</u>	
NP I	<u>9-49576</u>	
NP I	<u>9-51187</u>	
NP I	<u>9-51977</u>	
NP I	<u>9-52130</u>	
NP I	<u>9-52451</u>	
UTD	<u>3F. 4250-A P. 1</u>	
	<u>West Post &amp; Times Herald 4/17/80</u>	
UTD	<u>62-60527-36977</u>	
UTD	<u>41930 p. 5</u>	
UTD	<u>66-1631-12114</u>	
UTD	<u>94-1-152-8382</u>	
	<u>Robert Inactive</u>	
NR	<u>42-40968</u>	<u>MF</u>
NR	<u>47-14643</u>	<u>MF</u>
NR	<u>76-25593</u>	<u>MF</u>
UTD	<u>7-5326-27</u>	<u>MF</u>
UTD	<u>-28</u>	<u>MF</u>
UTD	<u>15-27483-1</u>	<u>MF</u>
UTD	<u>-2</u>	<u>MF</u>
UTD	<u>3</u>	<u>MF</u>
UTD	<u>5</u>	<u>MF</u>

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

Subj:

Supervisor

Room

R#

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Searcher

Initial

Prod.

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

UFD	25-378273-1	
UFD	26-129140-34	115
UFD	47-55342-1	b3
UFD	61-10490-297	b7E
UFD	62-91933-7868211	
UFD	[REDACTED]	
UFD	[REDACTED]	
UFD	91-18420-21	
UFD	100-35658-9-19	
UFD	100-339703-19	
UFD	100-299830-90 p.16	
UFD	100-48249-1	
UFD		4
UFD	121-21050-12	MFC

b3

-b7E

MFL



110  
1 2

NOVEMBER 1, 1984

UNCLAS

PRIORITY

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI NEW YORK PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

51  
13  
MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY-EXPANDED NAME CHECK,  
BUDED: 11/1/84 WITHOUT FAIL. {B} PLEASE PHONE RESULTS BY COB  
11/5/84.

REBUTELS TO ALL OFFICES DATED 9/7/82.

BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT EXPEDITE EXPANDED NAME  
CHECK OF APPOINTEE FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT, POSITION NOT  
INDICATED. FBIHQ FILES INDICATE LEAD FIELD OFFICES MAY HAVE  
RECORDS PERTAINING TO APPLICANT.

CHECK INDICES AND ELSUR FILES BASED UPON INFORMATION  
CONCERNING APPOINTEE.

IF UTILIZING MAJOR CASE INFORMATION SYSTEM, OCIS, OR ISIS  
SHOULD ALSO CHECK THOSE DATA BASES. PROMPTLY SUTEL RESULTS  
{POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE} BY TELETYPE SUMMARY AND IF POSITIVE,

b6  
b7C

TRR (2)

11/1/84

5161/6

4228

RETURN TO

ROOM 5161

161-5792-75

NOT RECORDED

FEB 5 1985

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

53 JUN 26 1985

NOV 1984

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE

2

## CONTINUATION SHEET

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0110 UNCLAS

FOLLOW WITH COPIES OF DOCUMENTS BY AIRTEL. ADDITIONALLY,

ADVISE [REDACTED] SPIN, X4228, IMMEDIATELY UPON COMPLETION OF  
RECORD CHECKS.LAIRD IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AS SENIOR COUNSELOR, READER'S  
DIGEST, WASHINGTON, D. C.; RESIDES 5703 KIRKWOOD DRIVE,  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND; IS DESCRIBED AS BORN SEPTEMBER 1, 1922,  
IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA; AND HAS SSAN 392-14-5736.

SPIN

BT

I

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

b6  
b7C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ ~~TOP SECRET~~  
☐ ~~SECRET~~  
☐ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 11/5/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ADIC, NEW YORK (161B-9468) (RUC) (A-4)

SUBJECT: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD  
SPIN - EXPANDED NAME CHECK  
BUDED: PAST

b6  
b7C

This communication is classified "~~Secret~~" in its entirety.

Re New York tel to Bureau, dated 11/5/84, and New York  
telcal to [redacted] Headquarters, on 11/5/84.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the copies of the following  
serials mentioned in re tel:

- 1) Elsur log, dated [redacted]
- 2) WFO airtel to Bureau, dated 2/15/68, entitled  
[redacted] IS - PO; OO: WFO;
- 3) [redacted]
- 4) FD-302 regarding BARRY J. SHILLITO, dated 4/24/81.

b3  
b7E

161-5792-76

~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFIED BY G-3  
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

- (2) - Bureau (Encs. 4) (RM)  
1 - New York

WER:mcw  
(4)

ENCLOSURE

NOT RECORDED  
12 NOV 7 1984

b6  
b7C

53 JUN 26 1985

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

2/15/68

b6  
b7C

AIRTEL [REDACTED]

b3  
b7E

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]  
FROM: SAC, WFO [REDACTED] (P)

2/20/68  
15 - PO  
(OO:WFO)

Enclosed are five copies for the Bureau and one copy for the New York Office of a self-explanatory LHM dated and captioned as above.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

The source mentioned is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] an established source of WFO.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 5)  
① - New York [REDACTED] (Enc. 1) (INFO) (RM)  
2 - WFO [REDACTED]

b3  
b6  
b7C  
b7D  
b7E

CJL:arw  
(6)

AIRTEL

WFO  
[REDACTED]  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
FEB 16 1968  
[REDACTED]  
161-5792-7  
4372



b3  
b6  
b7C  
b7D  
b7E

b6  
b7C  
b7D

WFO indices negative concerning [redacted]

[redacted] pointed out that [redacted]  
of age, is an expert in the [redacted]

[redacted]  
in this area of study. [redacted]

[redacted] Representative MELVIN R. LAIRD, Congressman  
from Wisconsin who is Chairman of the Republican House Conference  
Committee [redacted]

A copy of this communication is being furnished  
to the New York Office since subject is [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

The LHM is classified "CONFIDENTIAL" since it reveals  
investigative interest in a representative of a foreign power.



b6  
b7C

F B I

Date: 5/14/69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

ENCODED

TELETYPE

(Type in plaintext or code)

~~URGENT~~

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted]  
AND SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD [redacted]

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK [redacted]

[redacted] INTERNAL SECURITY

b3  
b7E

[redacted] SOURCE WHO  
HAS FURNISHED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST, ADVISED THAT  
HE HAD LEARNED THAT ON THIS DATE, [redacted]

b7D

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
HAD A RATHER IMPORTANT MATTER RELATING TO [redacted]

[redacted] PERSONAL ATTENTION.

IN A MEETING WITH [redacted]

[redacted] HAD BEEN ASKED BY  
SOMEONE IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHO IS AWARE [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] TO SPEAK PERSONALLY [redacted]

[redacted] COULD SUGGEST AS TO THE WAY IN WHICH THE

①-New York  
1-Supervisor #31

DFG/aas  
(2)

ASST #31

Indexed

Filed

Approved: [signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

161-5792-709-114-1331  
ENCLOSURE

F B I

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] INDICATED THAT HAVING  
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN DELAYED IN REACHING

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] HAD BEEN SPEAKING WITH SECRETARY LAIRD (POSSIBLY  
REFERRING TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MELVIN LAIRD), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO COULD GIVE HER HIS VIEWS  
INFORMALLY.

SOURCE REPORTED LEARNING THAT [REDACTED] WILL  
[REDACTED] AT HIS RESIDENCE ON THE EVENING OF THIS  
DATE FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM, PERHAPS FOR  
TOMORROW.

SOURCE LEARNED THAT [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE

SOURCE MENTIONED IS [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] COMMUNICATION CLASSIFIED "~~SECRET DASH NO FOREIGN~~  
~~DISSEMINATION~~" BECAUSE OF SENSITIVE NATURE OF SOURCE. NO LHM  
FOLLOWS. NYO WILL ATTEMPT TO FURTHER IDENTIFY [REDACTED]

b3  
b7D  
b7E

b7D

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

FBI

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE THREE

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THROUGH PHONE NUMBER SUPPLIED BY SOURCE.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Barry J. Shillito, Chairman, Teletype-International, 1301 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 900, Arlington, Virginia, telephone number 703-522-2550, whose principal residence is in San Diego, California, office address of 3761 Hartford Street, San Diego, California, telephone number 714-291-7311, home telephone number 714-227-4313, was interviewed regarding the government's purchase of titanium in 1972. Shillito thereafter furnished the following information:

Shillito was allowed to read two letters - the first letter from Senators Alan Bible and Howard W. Cannon to Melvin R. Laird, dated December 22, 1971, and a letter from himself to Senator Alan Bible, dated January 8, 1972, and after reading the communications he advised that he had no specific recollection of either receiving the Senators' letter or responding to it. He advised that as a matter of practice when Congressional letters were received concerning stockpiles the letters would have been directed to Vice-Admiral Eli T. Reich, who at the time was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and had responsibility for matters concerning the stockpiling of strategic materials.

b6  
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Shillito advised that in any matter involving one of the four Senate committees that his office constantly did business with he would have become involved. Concerning the subject matter of the Senators' letter, he more than likely would have discussed the subject matter with Vice-Admiral Reich and then would have made recommendations. He recalls that at the time that he had been doing a lot of work on matters concerning the stockpiles, an area that consumed a significant amount of his time.

Specifically, in regards to his January 8, 1972, letter, he advised that he has no specific recollection of having talked to [redacted]. He did advise that obviously his office did take action as a result of the Senators' letter by his staff making some phone calls.

194C-127 Sub K  
96

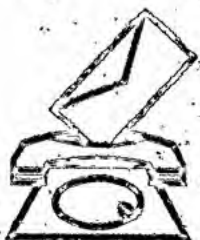
Investigation on 4/26/82 at Arlington, Virginia File # WFO 194C-128  
by SA [redacted] pag Date dictated 4/27/83

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

161-5772-76

ENCLOSURE







VZCZCNYC599

OO HQ

DE NY #0144 3110123

ZNY UUUUU

R 052341Z NOV 84

FM FBI NEW YORK (161B-946E) (P) (A-3)

TO DIRECTOR FBI IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

6 NOV 84 02 55z

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

Exec. AD-Adm.	
Exec. AD-Inv.	
Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

General Applicant / Spm Room 5156  
TL 233

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPIN-EXPANDED NAME CHECK, BUDED: PAST

REFERENCE BUREAU TEL TO NEW YORK, DATED NOVEMBER 1, 1984.

A REVIEW OF ELSUR INDICES ON NOVEMBER 2, 1984 BY [REDACTED]  
AND A REVIEW OF ELSUR LOGS BY [REDACTED] REFLECTS MELVIN  
LAIRD'S NAME. NEW YORK WILL FORWARD COPY OF ELSUR LOG TO BUREAU BY  
AIRTEL.

A REVIEW OF NEW YORK GENERAL INDICES ON NOVEMBER 2, 1984, AND  
FILE REVIEW ON NOVEMBER 3, 1984 BY [REDACTED] REVEALED THE

NOT RECORDED

FEB 5 1985

CO DESTROYED 53 JUN 26 1985

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b6  
b7C

PAGE TWO DE NY 3144 UNCLAS

FOLLOWING REGARDING MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD:

NEW YORK FILE 161-2698, CAPTIONED "MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, JR;  
SPIN", DATED DECEMBER 23, 1968, IS IDENTICAL TO CAPTIONED SUBJECT. X

NEW YORK FILE [ ] RECLASSIFIED INTO [ ] CAPTIONED  
[ ] IS-PO; WFO; BUREAU FILE [ ]; DATED  
FEBRUARY 15, 1968. FILE REFLECTS THAT MELVIN R. LAIRD, A CONGRESS-  
MAN FROM WISCONSIN WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN HOUSE  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, SELECTED ONE [ ] FOR A POSITION WITH  
THIS COMMITTEE. LAIRD IS ALSO A FRIEND OF [ ] COPY WILL BE  
FORWARDED TO BUREAU BY AIRTEL.

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2

NEW YORK FILE [ ], CAPTIONED "[ ]  
[ ] DATED [ ] BUREAU FILE  
[ ] COPY WILL BE FORWARDED TO BUREAU BY AIRTEL.

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ISIS, NYO, CHECKED BY [ ] ON NOVEMBER 5, 1984, 4  
AND REVEALED NEW YORK FILE 194-127 SUB B-96, CAPTIONED [ ]  
[ ] AKA [ ] ET AL". COPY

PAGE THREE DE NY 3144 UNCLAS

WILL BE FORWARDED TO BUREAU BY AIRTEL.

BT

#0144

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ ~~TOP SECRET~~  
☐ ~~SECRET~~  
☐ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 11/13/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 (ATTN: )

b6  
 b7C

FROM: *11/3* ADIC, NEW YORK (161B-*2698*) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD  
 SPIN - EXPANDED NAME CHECK

Reference New York airtel to Bureau, dated 11/5/84 and Bureau telephone call to New York, 11/13/84.

A review of the enclosures mentioned in reference airtel and files did not reflect any derogatory information regarding captioned subject.

*2* - Bureau  
 (ATTN: )  
 1 - New York  
 WER:wer  
 (3)

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NOT RECORDED

K. 11. 13. 1984

53 JUN 20 1985

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)

(Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

53 JUN 26 1985



1 - [redacted]  
1 - [redacted]

NOV 15 1984

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BY COURIER

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

[redacted] President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

b6  
b7C

Dear [redacted]:

in accordance with a request received from you on October 25, 1984, an expanded name check has been conducted concerning Mr. Melvin Robert Laird.

Enclosed is a summary memorandum containing the results of this expanded name check.

Sincerely yours,

*Oliver B. Revell*  
Oliver B. Revell  
Assistant Director  
Criminal Investigative Division

*K20*  
✓ Enclosure

TR:VM (VI)  
(4)

DE-43

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b7C

101-5772-80

NOTE: Request for expanded name check received October 25, 1984, from [redacted] the White House. Mr. Laird is currently employed as Senior Counselor, National and International Affairs, Reader's Digest Association, Incorporated, Washington, D. C. The expanded name check is complete and ostensibly favorable. The records of the United States Attorney's Office in Baltimore, Maryland, reveal that Mr. Laird was the subject of a preliminary injunction brought by the United States Army in 1970, and that a petition of habeas corpus was granted. No additional information is available as the Baltimore United States Attorney's Office destroys its records after ten years.

Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Lab. \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. Cong. & Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

1 JUL 16 1985 CLOSURE

RETURN TO [redacted] ROOM 5158

Note Continued

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR  
ADD. DISSEMINATION

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Photo  
12/8/92  
FEB 11 1993  
MARE-NG

INCONS FEB 27 1985

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4/23/90

Ok to disseminate letter  
per [redacted] dated 11/20/92 mby

Melvin Robert Laird

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On November 15, 1984, [redacted] the White House Security Office, was advised by SSA [redacted] of the above information, and after consultation with [redacted] [redacted] to the President, indicated that no additional inquiries were necessary concerning the matter referred to by the records in the Baltimore United States Attorney's Office.

It is noted this expanded name check was delayed in being submitted due to voluminous files at FBIHQ which had to be reviewed concerning Mr. Laird and issues raised by the New York and Baltimore Divisions which required additional contacts with those divisions.

NOV 15 1984

~~MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD~~

*Summary*

This summary memorandum contains the results of an expanded name check concerning Mr. Melvin Robert Laird, who was born on September 1, 1922, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Agency Checks

Information has been received from the United States Attorneys' Offices in Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D. C., where Mr. Laird currently resides and is employed, indicating their civil and criminal files contain no record concerning him, except the following:

A search of the docket records of the United States Attorney's Office in Baltimore, Maryland, disclosed that Melvin Robert Laird residing at 5703 Kirkwood Drive, Chevy Chase, Maryland, was the subject of a preliminary injunction brought by the United States Army in 1970, and that a petition of habeas corpus was granted. A representative of the United States Attorney's Office advised that no other information is available because records are only maintained for ten years and the records in question have been destroyed.

Central files at FBI Headquarters and in the Baltimore and Washington Field Offices, including the files of the Identification Division and appropriate computer data bases, contain no additional pertinent information concerning Mr. Laird.

TR:vm (VI)  
(2)

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RETURN TO   ROOM 5078

Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. Cong. & Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

\*Copy furnished  
to DOS  
on APR 27 1987  
*IRB: agj*

*161-5772-80*

MAIL ROOM ☐

029

1 1

NOVEMBER 23, 1984

UNCLAS

PRIORITY

\*F0298PP BAIDE HQ H0029 \*H040TP 231625Z NOV 84  
FM DIRECTOR FBI  
TO BALTIMORE (161-6770) PRIORITY  
BT

UNCLAS

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED: 11/28/84 WITHOUT FAIL.

BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT EXPEDITE LIMITED INQUIRY OF LAIRD.

LAIRD WAS RECENTLY THE SUBJECT OF AN EXPANDED NAME CHECK. DURING THIS INVESTIGATION, INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED INDICATING LAIRD WAS THE SUBJECT OF A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION BROUGHT BY THE U. S. ARMY IN 1970.

BALTIMORE IS REQUESTED TO REVIEW COURT RECORDS OF APPROPRIATE U. S. DISTRICT COURT TO DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING INJUNCTION AND FINAL ADJUDICATION OF CASE.

SPIN

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BT 1

*TRC*  
*2/11/85*  
RETURN TO   ROOM 5161

161-5792-81

53 JUN 26 1985

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(11-58.943 (161-4588) (SQ: 9) (RUC)

SAC, PHILADELPHIA (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS

General Applicant & *John* Room 5153

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED: NOVEMBER 28, 1984

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO BALTIMORE DATED NOVEMBER 23, 1984.

REVIEW OF U. S. DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF MARYLAND,

DOCKET INDICES REVEALS 36 SEPARATE CASES WERE FILED AGAINST LAIRD,

EITHER IN HIS CAPACITY AS EX-SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, OR IN HIS NAME.

ALL 36 WERE FILED AND DISPOSITIONS ENTERED PRIOR TO 1979.

TWO SAMPLE DOCKET RECORDS WERE EXAMINED. DOCKET SOLELY PROVIDES DATE OF COMPLAINT AND DATE OF DISPOSITION. NO PERTINENT INFORMATION RE NATURE OF CASE IS NOTED. FILES FOR EACH CASE BELOW-LISTED HAVE

BEEN SHIPPED FROM BALTIMORE TO GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION,

GENERAL ARCHIVES DIVISION (NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE),

9TH AND MARKET STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

*[Redacted]*  
Balt. ~~State~~ <sup>Dept.</sup> ~~and requested the Res. Center~~  
~~matters by case in Balt~~  
~~privately reprinted -~~

B-5 JUN 26 1985  
CO DESTROYED

ADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

161-5712-82

Per [redacted] 11/30/84, not necessary  
to provide details of suit naming  
him or his capacity as Sec'y. of Defense

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OC-SPIN

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PAGE TWO, BA 161-4588, UNCLAS

MELVIN LAIRD, ETC., ET AL:: V. DANIEL WEBSTER BAILEY 71-49H;  
V. MICHAEL JJ. BAYLOR 70-480-T; V. WILLIAM T. CAIRE 21183/84 C.D.;  
VV. SHAWN R. CLEMENTS, ETC. 70-1414-T; V. LT. DOUGLAS W. DONIQIAN  
20084/83; V. WILLIAM J. FARLEY, JR. 72-776-K, V. WILLIAM J. FARLEY,  
JR. 72-70-K; V. LT. LOUIS P. FONT, ETC. 70-716-H; V. EDWARD G. FOX,  
ETC. 70-1079-K.

MELVIN LAIRD, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: V. CHARLES R. GOSHEN 70-1264T.

MELVIN LAIRD, ETC., ET AL: V. STEVEN GROSSMAN 21429/85; V.  
DANIEL C. HLOPICK, IN THE MATTER OF 71-687-K-CIVIL; V. DANIEL S.  
HLOPICKK 70-1275 K; V. RICHARD A. HOLUS 70-831K.

MELVIN LAIRD, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: V. WILLIAM F. JEMISON  
71-215M.

MELVIN LAIRD, ETC. ET AL: V. ANDREW F. KEIL, ETC. 70-25-K;  
V. JEFFREY HUGH KOENIG, IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION ON BEHALF OF  
72-1232-H.

MELVIN LAIRD, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ET AL: V. ROBERT K. LANE,  
FIRST LT., ETC 70-1030K; V. HAYDEN I. LIPP 70-1479M.

MELVIN LAIRD, ETC., ET AL: V. LOIS H. LOVE, ET AL 71-915-M;  
V. BARRY A. LURIE 72-162-B; BARRY A. LURIE 72-74-B; V. CAPT. JAMES  
MARSALIS, JR. 70-1458W; V. PRIVATE MICHAEL G. MCGEHEE 70-287-K;

PAGE THREE, BA 161-4588, UNCLAS.

V. CAPT. JJOSEPH MCGRADY 70-1169H.

MELVIN LAIRD, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ET AL: V. THOMAS W. MOORE 70-967-N; V. DAVID J. OLSON 71-165K; V. EVERETT A. OSBOURNE 70-897T; V. WILLIAM A. PECKAT 70-1175W; V. HARRY E. RIEHL 70-1306T; V. LLOYD A. SAGER 71-1371Y.

HON. MELVIN LAIRD, ETC, ET AL: V. JOHN V. SIGLER 71-635T; V. ROBERT M. D. TALFORD 20113/84 C.D.; V. U.S.A., ETC. 20719/82; LLOYD UNVERFERTH IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF, ET AL 71-681-K, CIVIL; V. CARLISE D. PATNODE, ETC. 70-98-H.

LEAD: PHILADELPHIA: AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA: CONSULT FILES, DETERMINE DISPOSITION, NATURE OF ACTION TAKEN AGAINST LAIRD AND INASMUCH AS BALTIMORE HAS NO ADDITIONAL LEADS OUTSTANDING, BALTIMORE CONSIDERS THIS MATTER RUC.

BT

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PP HQ

DE BA

P 0032046Z DEC 84

FM BALTIMORE (161-4588) (SQ. 9) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: [REDACTED] ROOM 5158, SPIN UNIT

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPIN; BUDED: NOVEMBER 28, 1984.

RE BALTIMORE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, OCTOBER 31, 1984; BUREAU TELETYPE TO BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 23, 1984, AND BUREAU TELCALL OF ZACH LOWE TO SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] NOVEMBER 30, 1984.

AS INDICATED IN REFERENCED BALTIMORE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, OCTOBER 31, 1984, U.S. ATTORNEY'S RECORDS ARE LIMITED, CONSISTING OF A 3X5 CARD AND DOCKET FORM. THE 3X5 CARD REFLECTS THE NAME MELVIN LAIRD, A CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND ADDRESS, A U.S. ATTORNEY'S FILE NUMBER 66203, COURT NUMBER 20719, THE NAME RICHARD R. LOHMEYER VS. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CARD APPEARS ~~U.S. ATTORNEY PRELIMINARY IN JUNCTION~~ SEPTEMBER 20, 1969, AND THE INITIALS JFM WHICH ARE THE INITIALS OF THE ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY HANDLING INSTANT MATTER. THE DOCKET

Exec. AD-Adm.	
Exec. AD-Inv.	
Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

General Applicant & Spin Room 5153  
TL 233

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161-5792-83

telcall from  
PH  
11/29 - PH needs  
release from judge  
& Accession  
numbers to  
get records from  
archives.  
Please call if  
we want to  
follow up.

CO DESTROYED

6/1/85



PAGE TWO (161-4588) UNCLAS

FORM ALSO INDICATES THE SAME USA FILE NUMBER 66243 AND REFLECTS A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION BY THE U.S. ATTORNEY AND THAT A PETITION OF HABEAS CORPUS WAS GRANTED, HOWEVER, DOES NOT MENTION THE NAME MELVIN LAIRD. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE INITIALS JFM BELONG TO J. FREDERICK MOTZ, WHO IS THE CURRENT U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

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J. FREDERICK MOTZ WAS CONTACTED ON DECEMBER 3, 1984, BY SSA

[REDACTED] AND HE ADVISED HE RECALLED IN GENERAL TERMS THE CASE REFERRED TO ABOVE. HE ADVISED TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION, THAT THE CASE INVOLVED LAIRD AS A RESPONDENT IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS THE THEN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION, LAIRD WAS NEVER THE SUBJECT OF A SUIT FILED AGAINST HIM PERSONALLY. MOTZ ADVISED THAT GEORGE BEALL, THE U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND IN THE LATE 1960S, WOULD PROBABLY BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE CASE INVOLVING LAIRD AND THE BASIS FOR THOSE MATTERS.

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b7C

ON DECEMBER 3, 1984, GEORGE BEALL WAS CONTACTED BY SSA [REDACTED] AND HE ADVISED THAT HE RECALLED NUMEROUS CASES WHEREIN MELVIN LAIRD WAS A RESPONDENT. HE ADVISED THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION, IN EVERY INSTANCE, LAIRD WAS RESPONDENT IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. BEALL COULD NOT RECALL ANY INSTANCES OF PERSONAL SUITS BROUGHT AGAINST LAIRD DURING HIS TENURE AS U.S. ATTORNEY.

BT Beall advised to be of no help in the case concerning objection to the motion.  
[REDACTED]



BAO010 3392139Z

RR HQ

DE BA

R 0042117Z DEC 84

FM BALTIMORE (161-4588) (SQ. 9) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: [REDACTED], ROOM 5158

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPIN; BUDED: NOVEMBER 28, 1984. IL 231

RE BALTIMORE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, DECEMBER 3, 1984.

AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE ONE OF REFERENCED TELETYPE SHOULD READ  
AS FOLLOWS: "AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CARD APPEARS PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION  
U.S. ARMY SEPTEMBER 29, 1969,". ALL THAT PROCEEDS AND FOLLOWS THIS  
CHANGE IS CORRECT.

MR. GEORGE BEALL, DURING HIS INTERVIEW, ALSO ADVISED THAT TO  
THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION, EVERY CASE WHERE LAIRD WAS A  
RESPONDENT WAS A MATTER INVOLVING CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS AND OR  
INDIVIDUALS DESIRING EARLY RELEASE FROM THE SERVICE.

BT

CC DESTROYED

53 JUN 26 1985

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SECTION

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Exec. AD-Adm.	
Exec. AD-Inv.	
Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Insp.	
Intell.	
Lab.	
Legal Coun.	
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Serv.	
Training	

General Appellate Room 5158

NOT RECORDED

FEB 5 1985

6/12

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE BALTIMORE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN BUREAU	DATE 12/5/84	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/27-28/84
TITLE OF CASE MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD		REPORT MADE BY SA <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	TYPED BY CMC
		CHARACTER OF CASE SPIN	

REFERENCE: Bureau teletype to Baltimore dated 11/23/84.

(RUC)

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

The provisions of the Privacy Act were explained to interviewees. Those requesting confidentiality have been noted.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED <i>DC</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
② - Bureau ① - Baltimore (161-4588) (SQ.9) <i>CC DESTROYED</i>						161-5792-85		
						NOT RECORDED DEC 7 1984		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency						<i>Spec. Inv.</i>		
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

53 JUN 26 1985

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b6  
b7C

## Copy to:

Report of: SA [REDACTED]  
Date: 12/5/84

Office: BALTIMORE

Field Office File #: 161-4588

Bureau File #:

Title: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD

Character: SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis: U.S. District Court, District of Maryland, 36 cases  
filed v. LAIRD. Records housed in Philadelphia.

(P)

## DETAILS:

Review of U.S. District Court, District of Maryland, docket indices, on 11/27/84, reveals 36 separate cases were filed against LAIRD, either in his capacity as Ex-secretary of Defense, or in his name. All 36 were filed and dispositions entered prior to 1979. Two sample docket records were examined. Docket solely provides date of complaint and date of disposition. No pertinent information re nature of case is noted. Files for each case below-listed have been shipped from Baltimore to General Services Administration, General Archives Division (National Archives and Records Service), 9th and Market Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Melvin Laird, etc., et al: V. Daniel Webster Bailey 71-49H; V. Michael J. Baylor 70-480-T; V. William T. Caire 21183/84 C.D.; V. Shawn R. Clements, etc. 70-1414-T; V. Lt. Douglas W. Doniqian 20084/83; V. William J. Farley, Jr. 72-776-K; V. William J. Farley, Jr., 72-70-K; V. Lt. Louis P. Font, Etc. 70-716-H; V. Edward G. Fox, Etc. 70-1079-K.

Melvin Laird, Secretary of Defense: V. Charles R. Goshen 70-126T.

Melvin Laird, etc., et al: V. Steven Grossman 21429/85; V. Daniel C. Hlopick, in the matter of 71-687-K-Civil; V. Daniel S. Hlopick 70-1275K; V. Richard A. Holus 70-831K.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

BA 161-4588

Melvin Laird, Secretary of Defense: V. William F. Jemison 71-215M.

Melvin Laird, etc. et al: V. Andrew F. Keil, etc. 70-25-K; W. Jeffrey Hugh Koenig, in the matter of the petition on behalf of 72-1232-H.

Melvin Laird, Secretary of Defense, et al: V. Robert K. Lane, First Lt., etc 70-1030K; V. Hayden I. Lipp 70-1479M.

Melvin Laird, etc., et al: V. Lois H. Love, et al 71-915-M; V. Barry A. Lurie 72-162-B; Barry A. Lurie 72-74-B; V. Capt. James Marsalis, Jr. 70-1458W; V. Private Michael G. McGehee 70-287-K; V. Capt. Joseph McGrady 70-1169H.

Melvin Laird, Secretary of Defense, et al: V. Thomas W. Moore 70-967-N; V. David J. Olson 71-165K; V. Everett A. Osbourne 70-897T; V. William A. Peckat 70-1175M; V. Harry E. Riehl 70-1306T; V. Lloyd A. Sager 71-1371Y.

Hon. Melvin Laird, etc., et al: V. John V. Sigler 71-635T; V. Robert M. D. Talford 20113/84 C.D.; V. U.S.A., etc. 20719/82; Lloyd Unverferth in the matter of the application of, et al 71-681-K-Civil; V. Carlise D. Patnode, etc. 70-98-H.

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 12/11/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (161B-1272) (SQ11) (RUC)  
 SUBJECT: MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD  
 SPIN

Re Baltimore teletype to Bureau, 11/28/84, Philadelphia telcall to Bureau 11/29/84 and Bureau telcall to Philadelphia, 12/3/84.

Since referenced Bureau telephone call advised to discontinue investigation requested in referenced teletype, this case is being considered RUC'd.

(2) - Bureau  
 1 - Philadelphia (161B-1272) (SQ11)

CAT:njd  
 ( 3 )

CC DESTROYED

NOT RECORDED

17 DEC 13 1984

Spec. Inq.

53 JUN 26 1985

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)

(Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_



b6  
b7C

1 - [redacted]  
1 - [redacted]

DEC 13 1984

BY COURIER

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

12-13-84  
[signature]

[redacted]  
[redacted] President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

b6  
b7C

Dear [redacted]:

Reference is made to the results of an expanded name check concerning Mr. Melvin Robert Laird which was provided to you on November 15, 1984.

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b7C

As a result of the information contained in this expanded name check a request was received from [redacted] to the President, on November 20, 1984, that a limited inquiry be conducted concerning Mr. Laird.

Transmitted herewith is a summary memorandum containing the results of this inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

161-5772-87  
[signature]  
Oliver S. Revell  
Assistant Director  
Criminal Investigative Division

32 [signature]  
Enclosure

NOT RECORDED  
DEC 5 1985

AE:lam (VI)  
(4)

b6  
b7C

NOTE: Expanded name check provided to the White House on 11-15-84, contained information that Laird was the subject of a preliminary injunction brought against him in 1970. On 11-20-84, [redacted] President, requested a limited inquiry concerning this matter. A check of United States District Court records revealed 36 cases concerning Laird, however the files are in storage and require a release from a judge to gain access. On 11-30-84, [redacted] informed the FBI that it was not necessary to provide details of suits naming Laird in his official capacity. Records of the United States Attorney's Office, Baltimore, Maryland, contained a file card

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Note Continued

RETURN TO [redacted], ROOM 5158

- Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Lab. \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. Cong. & Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

53 JUN 26 1985

Photo (encl)  
15  
12/8/92  
FEB 11 1985  
MISK pde

to disseminate  
letter dated 11/26/92  
INCONS FEB 27 1985

Autono 316185BDL

An Applicant-type investigation was conducted in 1984 concerning the captioned individual. The results of this investigation were furnished to the White House. For detailed results of this investigation, you are referred to [redacted] at the White House.

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b7C

4/23/94

PHOTOCOPY TO OPEN

RR 7/15/84

DEC 17 1984

ANS DE W/H/L

DIS 6:6:86 BR 3:13:86 LSH  
Deply stat 4:15:87 PK 4/14/87  
GAD ofc Sy + Safety  
Recd 7-25-89 returned 8-24-89  
NCSA/H MRS  
DIS re 10/1/92 ret 10/21/92 EAD 4/4 mhp

Melvin Robert Laird

dated 9-29-69, concerning the above mentioned case but contained no additional information. J. Frederick Motz, United States Attorney for Maryland (U.S. Attorney for MD.), stated he handled the case and recalled it in general terms. Motz stated the case involved Laird in his official capacity as Secretary of Defense. George Beall, U. S. Attorney for MD. during the 1960's stated all such cases brought against Laird were in his official capacity as Secretary of Defenses, and involved conscientious objectors or those seeking early release from the military. Neither Motz nor Beall knew of any cases filed against Laird personally. Investigation is complete.

DEC 13 1984

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD

The information contained in this summary memorandum supplements information contained in an expanded name check dated November 15, 1984.

Agency Checks

Information has been received from the United States Attorney's Office, Baltimore, Maryland, indicating its files contain an index card reference to a case titled "Richard R. Lohmeyer versus Melvin Laird," and indicates that a "preliminary injunction United States Army" was filed concerning this case on September 29, 1969, and that a petition of habeas corpus was granted. The reference is incomplete; however, it does indicate the attorney handling this matter was J. Frederick Motz, who is the present United States Attorney, Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Motz has advised he recalled the case in general terms and believes it involved Mr. Laird as a respondent in his official capacity as Secretary of Defense. Mr. Motz stated that he believes the plaintiff, Mr. Lohmeyer, was seeking an early release from the military. Mr. Motz also advised that to his knowledge Mr. Laird was never the subject of a suit filed against him personally.

A check of the records of the United States District Court, Baltimore, Maryland, indicate that 36 separate cases were filed against Mr. Laird, either as Secretary of Defense or in his name. The records also indicate that all 36 cases were filed and dispositions entered prior to 1979. All files concerning these cases have been transferred to the General Services Administration, General Archives Division, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where a release from a federal district judge is required for access to the files.

George Beall, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland during the late 1960's, was interviewed for information concerning these cases. Mr. Beall advised that to the best of his recollection these cases involved Mr. Laird in his official capacity as Secretary of Defense and were brought by conscientious objectors or those seeking early release from the military. Mr. Beall stated he knew of no cases in which personal suits were brought against Mr. Laird.

b6  
b7C

\*Copy furnished  
to DOJ  
on APR 27 1987  
IAB: agn

Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Lab. \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. Cong. &  
Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

AE:1 (VI)  
(2)

MAIL ROOM ☐

RETURN TO  ROOM 5158

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE

Exec. AD Adm.	
Exec. AD Inv.	
Exec. AD LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Insp.	
Intell.	
Lab.	
Legal Coun.	
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

Transmit attached by Facsimile - UNCLAS

31 OCT 22 - 5 3/2

Precedence *Routine*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date: 10/31/84

Time Transmitted:

Initials: *long*

To: Director  
From: Baltimore (161-6770)  
Subject: *Melvin Robert Laird*

57  
TS

- ☐ Fingerprint Photo   ☐ Fingerprint Record   ☐ Map   ☐ Newspaper clipping   ☐ Photograph  
☒ Artists Conception   ☒ Other Teletype (Fax)

\*Teletype Tape Cutter Down; Sending Teletype by Facsimile  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

(11)

161-5712-88

NOT DESTROYED

53 JUN 26 1985 ENCLOSURE

4/24



FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☒ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☒ UNCLAS

Date

10/31/84

749222

FM BALTIMORE (161-6770) (SQ. 9) ✓

TO DIRECTOR, FBI ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD, SPIN. BUDED: NOVEMBER 1, 1984, WOF.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO WFO, OCTOBER 26, 1984.

BALTIMORE INDICES CHECK INCLUDING ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ AND ELSUR  
DISCLOSED NO UNFAVORABLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE APPOINTEE.

ON OCTOBER 29, 1984, [REDACTED] DOCKETING, UNITED  
STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, ADVISED THAT A  
CHECK OF THEIR RECORDS DISCLOSED THAT MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD WAS  
THE SUBJECT OF A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION BY THE U.S. ARMY IN  
1970. A PETITION OF HABEAS CORPUS WAS GRANTED. NO OTHER  
INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AS THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ONLY  
MAINTAINS THEIR RECORDS FOR TEN YEARS AND THIS RECORD HAS BEEN  
DESTROYED.

BT

#

*Corrected  
SH*

b6

b7C

Approved: *DLH*

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1984-431-613/8266

161-5792-88

10/31/84

EXPANDED NAME CHECKS

WFO RECORD CHECK - ROUTING SLIP

FROM: SAC, WFO (161-5232), (C-1), (RUC)  
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
ROOM: 5161  
SPIN UNIT

MELVIN LAIRD  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - EXPANDED NAME CHECK  
BUDED 8 11/1/84 WITHOUT FAIL

b6  
b7c

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE TO ALL FBI FIELD OFFICES, DATED

10/26/84

IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUEST CONTAINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE  
THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED:

INDICES SEARCHED 10/29/84, BY CLERK  
CFR SEARCHED 10/29/84, BY CLERK  
ELSUR SEARCHED 10/29/84, BY CLERK  
ISIS SEARCHED 10/29/84, BY CLERK

[Redacted Box]

NO IDENTIFIABLE RECORD OBTAINED.

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

On 10/30/84, IA [Redacted Box] caused a  
search to be made of the pending and closed cases of the Civil  
and Criminal Divisions of the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. District  
Courthouse, and was advised by the following individuals that no  
identifiable record could be located regarding the appointee.

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD

NOT RECORDED  
16 APR 22 1985

53 JUN 25 1984

[Redacted Box]

Grand Jury  
Fraud and Major Crimes  
Civil

BUREAU  
1-WFO (161-5232)

6/11/84

139  
139  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE 1 OF 2

DATE  
AUGUST 17, 1987

CLASSIFICATION  
UNCLAS

PRECEDENCE  
IMMEDIATE

FM DIRECTOR FBI (161-5792)  
TO FBI BALTIMORE (161-6770) IMMEDIATE  
FBI WASHINGTON FIELD (161-5232) IMMEDIATE

*Ident  
NAB/Civil  
per JAW  
8/17/87*

BT

UNCLAS

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD; SPIN B-EXPANDED NAME CHECK; BUDED:  
8/24/87.

BUREAU HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONDUCT EXPEDITE EXPANDED  
NAME CHECK OF LAIRD FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT, AS MEMBER,  
PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON PRIVATIZATION.

BORN SEPTEMBER 1, 1922, IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA, RESIDES  
5703 KIRKWOOD DRIVE, BETHESDA, MARYLAND, AND IS EMPLOYED AS  
SENIOR COUNSELLOR, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, READERS  
DIGEST ASSOCIATION, 1730 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NORTHWEST, SUITE  
212, WASHINGTON, D. C., AND HAS SSAN: 392-14-5736.

RECEIVING OFFICES CHECK INDICES AND ELSUR FILES BASED  
UPON AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING APPOINTEE, IF UTILIZING

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BELOW THIS LINE

APPROVED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DRAFTED BY <i>[Signature]</i> PMH <i>pmh</i>	DATE 8/17/87	ROOM 1B035	TELE EXT. 4228
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RETURN TO   ROOM 1B035

2 ENCLOSURE

161-5792-90

SEP 17 1987

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

AUG 18 1987

DO NOT FILE WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS STAMP

FBI/DOJ

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

b6  
b7c

2  
MAJOR CASE INFORMATION SYSTEM, ALSO CHECK THOSE DATA BASES.  
PROMPTLY SUTEL RESULTS {POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE} BY TELETYPE  
SUMMARY AND IF POSITIVE, FOLLOW WITH COPIES OF DOCUMENTS BY  
AIRTEL.

RECEIVING OFFICES WILL ALSO CONTACT THE UNITED STATES  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COVERING AREAS WHERE APPOINTEE RESIDES AND  
IS EMPLOYED TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY INDICATION APPOINTEE  
HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A MATTER HANDLED BY THE UNITED STATES  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE {EITHER CRIMINAL OR CIVIL, IN CLOSED OR  
CURRENT FILES}.

b6  
b7c

NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS REQUESTED AT THIS TIME;  
HOWEVER, SUBMIT RESULTS BY BUDED BY SUMMARY TELETYPE, NO  
REPORT NECESSARY.

DIRECT RESULTS TO THE ATTENTION OF:  SPIN,  
ROOM 1B035.

BT

|

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**Records/Operations Sections**

8/17, 1987

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4989, TL# 121      b6  
☒ Service Unit, 4054, TL# 225      b7C  
☐ Special File Room, 5004, TL# 122  
☒ Forward [redacted] 5447, TL# 143  
☒ Attention [redacted]  
☒ Return to [redacted] 16035 254 2508  
Supervisor, Room, TL# Ext.

**Scope of Search:** (Check One)

- ☐ Automated Data Base (ADB)(Individual Born 1962 and After)  
☐ Restricted Search (Active Index - 5 & 20)  
☐ Restricted Search (Active & Inactive Index - 5 & 30)  
☒ Unrestricted (Active & Inactive Index)

**Type of Search Requested:** (Check One)

- ☒ All References (Security & Criminal)      **AUG 19 1987**  
☐ Security Search  
☐ Criminal Search  
☐ Main      References Only

**Special Instructions:** (Check One)

- ☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup      ☒ Variations  
☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_

Subject LAIRD, MELVIN ROBERTBirthdate & Place 9/1/42 OMAHA, NEAddress 5703 KIRKWOOD DR., BETHESDA, MDSSN 392-14-5736 Sr. Counseling ReaderLocalities Digest Assoc, Washington, D.C.R# 111 Date 8/19 Searcher Initials ADProd. UN 1081

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

WE HAVE 161-5792161-5792 I

MP Melvin R.  
67-104206

MP 196-6583-82  
Robert

[redacted]      b3  
[redacted]      b7E

[redacted]  
[redacted] 20 1987  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]



## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subject Land, Melvin Robert

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# 417 Date 8/19 Searcher Initials ASN

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

A  
D  
B

ACTIVE

INACTIVE

DATE ON  
CARD M/YMelvin R.RP 9-49576 - -RP 9-51187 - -RP 9-51977 - -RP 9-52130 - -RP 9-52451 - -MelvinRP 9-51163 - -RP 9-51245 - -RP 9-55113 - -RP 9-5152334 - -5-111A 2 1983

WFO 161B-5232  
GBM/clm

1

U.S. Attorney's Office  
555 4th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

b6  
b7C

On August 19, 1987, IA [ ] caused a search to be made of the pending and closed cases of the Special Prosecution, Trial and Grand Jury Divisions of the above agency. [ ] advised that no identifiable record could be located regarding the appointee, MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD.

On August 19, 1987, IA [ ] caused a search to be made of the pending and closed cases of the Civil Division of the above agency. [ ] advised that no identifiable record could be located regarding the appointee. It should be noted that the index system of the Civil Division, U.S. Attorney's Office, contains only names of plaintiffs, except in civil actions brought by the United States against a particular defendant. Suits against Government employees who are represented by the U.S. Attorney would be filed by plaintiff's name and docket number.

b6  
b7C

161-5792-91

ENCLOSURE

INBOX.13 (#2763)

TEXT:

VZCZCBA0010

PP HQ

DE BA #0010 2361839

ZNR UUUUU

P 241840Z AUG 87

FM BALTIMORE (161A-6770) (SQ 9) RUC

TO ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI (161-5792) (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS

ATTN: [REDACTED] ROOM 1B035

MELVIN ROBERT LAIRD; SPIN-EXPANDED NAME CHECK; BUDED:

AUGUST 24, 1987

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ALL FBI FIELD OFFICES, DATED  
AUGUST 17, 1987; BALTIMORE REPORT OF SA [REDACTED]  
DATED DECEMBER 5, 1984; BALTIMORE TELETYPE TO BUREAU, DATED  
DECEMBER 3, 1984.

ON AUGUST 20, 1987, [REDACTED] CLERK, U.S.  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, DISTRICT OF MD, ADVISED HER FILES  
REVEALED NO CURRENT OR PASSED PROSECUTIVE PROCEEDINGS  
REGARDING THE APPOINTEE SINCE NOVEMBER 27, 1984. REFERENCED  
REPORT SET OUT INFORMATION OF CASES FILED REGARDING HIM

CC DESTROYED

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

24 AUG 87 22 17

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

b6  
b7C

SA/GBLU  
EL 200 Room 5702

b6  
b7C

161-5792-92

6/10/87

PAGE TWO DE BA 0010 UNCLAS

PRIOR TO NOVEMBER, 1984.

b6  
b7C

ON AUGUST 19, 1987, A SEARCH OF BALTIMORE'S GENERAL,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ AND ELSUR INDICES CONDUCTED BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DISCLOSED NO UNFAVORABLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
APPOINTEE, OR HIS BUSINESS BASED ON THE INFORMATION  
PROVIDED.

BT

#0010

NNNN